



# The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the  
**Southwest Region**  
October, 2019



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**The Fly-By** is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

**Text** may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a .txt or Word .doc/docx, or, if written in another word processor, saved as an .RTF).

**Images** in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 x 900 pixels, sent as attachments, never embedded in the document.

**Credits:** In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

- The article's author(s),
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

[awoodgate@austin.rr.com](mailto:awoodgate@austin.rr.com)

Message size limit: 20 MB

## **SWR Commander's Corner**

The end of a fiscal year is an appropriate time to think about the past and the future. We are still working to calculate the final flying hours, dollars spent, number of cadets flown, AEMs recruited, and so on. However, even without those details, we can still characterize fiscal year 2019 as a momentous year for Civil Air Patrol and Southwest Region.

We had the first graduate of the Cadet Wings Program, the first 30-day in-residence cadet flight training program, a region-wide mobility exercise, hurricanes, floods, spent over \$100,000 on cadet orientation rides, and participated in a majority of the 117 saves in 2019 (thanks to the cell phone forensics team, who are mostly SWR members). Also, Civil Air Patrol was awarded the 2019 Air Force Association Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award for the Youth Aviation Initiative, in which many SWR members were key participants. These are all excellent examples of how our Southwest Region membership performed all major missions of Civil Air Patrol in a superlative manner. Congratulations, and thank you for making a difference!

As I think towards 2020, I do anticipate continued excellence in the many missions performed by our great volunteers. But I would also like you to think about some tools that are specifically designed to make us a more professional and productive organization.

- First, take a look at the new safety program. A lot of work has gone into that initiative and effective risk management really will be a force multiplier in every one of our missions.
- Also, take a look at the CAP Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience program. We will conduct the annual October Wingman Support Day, but this is something that should be emphasized all year long. It is important to care for ourselves, our families and our teammates.

- Finally, check out the brand-new CAPP 80-3, Character and Leadership: Applying Core Values for Senior Members. This is an excellent companion to our cadet Character Development program.

These tools are intended to make us a better organization, better teammates, and better able to perform important missions for our communities and our country.

Thanks again for what you do on a daily basis for Civil Air Patrol. 🇺🇸

**Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP**  
*Southwest Region Commander*

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### ***Safety is Priority One***

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: [http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety\\_education/](http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/)

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety-newsletters-2248/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

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### ***How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter***

#### ***▪ Which Articles Are Best?***

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

#### ***▪ Do I Submit Photos?***

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

#### ***▪ If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions***

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: [awoodgate@austin.rr.com](mailto:awoodgate@austin.rr.com). 🇺🇸



**Top:** With more than 20 years' experience in storm modeling, Capt. Gerry Creager provided valuable information to the IMT as the weather support officer. (Photo: Capt. Gerry Creager, taken with a delayed shutter setting)

## ***Southwest Region Members Support Hurricane Dorian Response***

*by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MESA, Ariz. – During September 1-3, 2019, Category 5 Hurricane Dorian, the strongest storm to ever hit the Bahamas, brought life-threatening effects to the nation's islands. Due to the storm's intensity and prolonged exposure to the islands, the effects were catastrophic; thousands of homes were destroyed, and dozens of deaths recorded. Property damages are estimated in the billions of dollars. But Dorian was not done, as it whipped itself around toward the U.S. coastline. Generating a wave of uncertainty, it bounded up the entire seaboard of the southeastern United States. As a result, from Florida to Virginia, Civil Air Patrol operations centers were humming with activity, while after the storm aircrews and ground teams were tasked to provide airborne photography and disaster relief assistance.

The first target was Florida, and the Florida Wing commander assembled a virtual Incident Management Team (IMT) to help conduct the planning and operations for the storm. A week later, this IMT stood down, but within minutes was reactivated to support another 1st Air Force mission, providing disaster relief assistance to the international response in the Bahamas.

Under the leadership of the U.S. Agency for International Development and its Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, the 1st Air Force commander became the overall Department of Defense Supported Commander. He then turned to CAP to conduct airborne photography and other missions. As a result, the newly established Civil Air Patrol Command IMT moved into detailed planning and execution of airborne photography missions throughout the islands.



Planning for this effort was complicated by significant over-water sortie distances, limited by communications (on-land fixed repeater range), need for passports, and weight and balance issues. Over-water distances, weight of crew, fuel load/weight, winds, and extra survival gear (including a raft), would also impact the safe loitering time for needed photography. These constraints were only exacerbated by the reduced, storm-impacted air traffic control capabilities, and an increase in both military and civil disaster relief aircraft at all altitudes. However, the highly skilled and trained Florida-based IMT staff worked out these challenges.

Not all of them were Floridians, and 30% – four members – came from the Southwest Region. Initially, these were the only CAP members from outside Florida represented on the IMT staff. They included the deputy incident commander, senior liaison officer, planning section chief, and weather support officer, all experienced in incident management and disaster relief. The Southwest Region members included Lt. Col. Eric Templeton, from Argyle, Texas, who served as the deputy incident commander during both responses. His expertise in incident management was complemented by his aircrew operations knowledge, as he is also the deputy commandant for the aircrew school at CAP's National Emergency Services Academy (NESA). He was joined by Southwest Region Director of Operations Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, from Denton, Texas, former Hurricane Harvey incident commander, and incident management icon for NESA. A week later, Woolfolk would take over as the IMT logistics section chief for the Bahamas response.

Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, from Mesa, Arizona, and the Arizona Wing, who was also requested by name, served 15 straight days as the IMT planning section chief for both missions. He provided an essential string of leadership, planning, and continuity to the training that he conducted twice for the Florida Wing's IMT earlier in the summer as the NESA-Mobile Training Team coordinator.

The team was rounded out by Capt. Gerry Creager, from Norman, Oklahoma, who served as the IMT's weather support officer, a new but critical function for the IMT. Now serving at the University of Oklahoma-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storm Laboratory, he has more than 20 years of experience in critical storm modeling. In this role, Creager was an essential contributor to the CAP IMT and Southeast Region Area Command decision-making. He entered multiple storm prediction modeling products, and briefed the forecasts for CAP decision-makers throughout both missions.

Southwest Region served the nation for over two weeks, as an essential contributor of knowledge and experience for the IMT supporting both the Florida Wing's response to Hurricane Dorian and the international mission in the Bahamas. The credo "One CAP" could not have been better personified through the SWR members who served during these back-to-back operations.

After just over a week's rest, all four members were reactivated to serve on the Texas Command Incident Management Team supporting CAP response operations to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Imelda. These Southwest Region incident managers supported almost a month of operations. 🇺🇸

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**Right:** Lt. Col. Bob Ditch served as the planning section chief for both the Hurricane Dorian and Bahamas disaster relief missions. (Photo: S.M. Carmel-Ann Ditch, CAP)

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**Top:** Curry Camp Cadets hold their first flight certificates. At left (L-R) Capt. Lance Oakley and Lt. Col. Richard "Red" Smith, who flew them on their first Orientation Rides. At right, 83rd Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Phil Robertson. (Photo: 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP)

### ***Arkansas Wing Squadron Holds 3rd Annual "Fun at the Fort"***

*by 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP, Arkansas Wing*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. – Over the summer, Arkansas Wing cadets look forward to three things: no school, encampment / National Cadet Special Activities, and "Fun at the Fort." Now in its third season, the Fun at the Fort that took place during August 5-8, 2019, succeeded by the activity's command staff unofficial measure: cadets were safe and they had fun.





**Above:** Cadets participate in a search and rescue mission in the Virtual Battle Space (VBS). (Photo: 1st. Lt. Tiara Sweeney, CAP, Oklahoma Wing)





**Left:** Cadet 2nd Lt. Stephen Rogers mans the turret during an exercise in the convoy simulator. (Photo: Cadet PAO Staff)

**Below:** Lt. Col. Blain Stewart, 188th Wing, also a CAP member, instructs cadets on the MQ-9 Reaper Simulator. (Photo: 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP)

The event, that is scheduled for about two weeks before Arkansas schools start the new school year, draws cadets from all over Arkansas as well as Oklahoma. The purpose

of the event is to use military training simulators in order to expose cadets to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities. Cadets train on the same simulators used today by U.S. military branches.

During Fun at the Fort, there is an annual Curry Camp that follows the “Great Start” program and offers cadets who joined in the summer a chance to meet the requirements for their first promotion, the Curry Award. This year’s Curry Flight also included five cadets from Oklahoma Wing, some of whom had joined CAP weeks before the event.

Fun at the Fort was Arkansas Wing’s largest air operation this year, in which 6 pilots and 3 air operations staff members from around the wing facilitated 44 orientation rides (O-rides), 11 of which were first time O-rides. One of the first fliers had never been even in a roller coaster, let alone an airplane in flight. The entire operation netted over 40 flight hours in two days.

Attending Fun at the Fort were 53 cadets from nearly every squadron in Arkansas Wing and from Eastern Oklahoma Wing. Approximately 21 Senior Members from Arkansas and Oklahoma Wings supported the event through administration, escorts, drivers, and food service.

Many cadets and senior members look forward to returning in 2020. The event continues to grow and build on the previous year. Event Safety Officer Tech. Sgt. Gary Podgurski said, “The main mission of Fun at the Fort is to learn by having fun.”







**Top:** Throughout encampment, cadets worked in teams to solve a variety of problems. (Photos: Encampment PAO Team)

## ***Arizona Wing Summer Encampment the Largest Ever***

*by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing*

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – During June 19-21, 2019, cadet cadre members along with some senior members made the trek to Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona, to get everything ready for the annual Arizona Wing Summer Encampment. The cadet students arrived on June 22 for the week-long activity.

“This year, with 133 cadets, we had the most cadets participating at encampment that I’ve ever seen in my nearly 10 years in CAP,” said Maj. Jerad Hoff, encampment commander. “We had cadets crammed into every nook and cranny of our dormitory. It made for a very busy and full encampment.”





**Above:** Cadet Commander Cadet Maj. Mackenzie Mollohan directs cadets during the field training exercise.

This year's encampment included the usual variety of activities, from leadership training in the classroom to physical challenges such as obstacle courses and the 40-foot-high rappelling wall. Cadet Airman Jed McClain from Willie Composite Squadron told a reporter from the local paper, the Sierra Vista Herald Review, "Leaning out of the doorway, you see a four-story drop down and you see the instructor loosening the rope so you can actually go down, and he tells you to lean back as far as you can," McClain said. "That's really the hardest part, but once you go down it's a breeze; you're having a blast."

McClain added, "I have a lot of people from my squadron here and all my role models are down there cheering me on, so I really love it. I'm really glad they cheered me on, because that's what we do in CAP – we cheer each other on."

"Planning started roughly 10 months prior to the event, with preliminary discussions, roughing out ideas, and brainstorming encampment improvements, culminating in a six-month dash to finalize plans, schedules, and agreements with the U.S. Army," Hoff said. "This year, the cadet cadre developed new and exciting lessons and activities for the first-ever 'Advanced Training Flight' with Cadet Maj. Mackenzie Mollohan leading the charge on curriculum and materials development," he said. "Our students will benefit from a tried-and-true schedule and a plan that has been successfully executed the past few years at Fort Huachuca."

Mollohan served as the cadet commander for this year's encampment, assisted by Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little, deputy commander for support, and Cadet Maj. Brandon Larkham, deputy commander of operations.





**Above:** Cadet Master Sgt. Colten Quackenbush shows determination while tackling one of the challenges on the obstacle course.

“Although the cadre contained a number of inexperienced cadet leaders, they collectively shined as a team,” Hoff said. “I was impressed each day by their work ethic and dedication, that far exceeded what you would expect given their experience level. This team worked tirelessly to ensure the cadet students had the best encampment experience possible, along with the entire line staff.”

Hoff also offered special recognition for this year’s cadet support staff. “Each team amazed everyone with their hard work, dogged determination, and their professional approach to their job,” Hoff said.

- Cadet 1st Lt. Weiss O’Connor worked with Cadet 1st Lt. Josh Klopfenstein to create a fair, metrics-based flight evaluation process to determine the honor flight after each training day. Cadet 2nd Lt. Brandon Sarrasin led the public affairs team of Cadet 2nd Lt. Brien Salgado and Cadet 2nd Lt. Daniel Hill, who posted photos and videos to Facebook each day.
- New this year were Facebook Live broadcasts throughout encampment. Sarrasin also starred in a commercial for the encampment graduation that was produced by the Fort Huachuca public affairs team.
- The Logistics team, headed by Cadet 1st Lt. Joseph Roehrick with Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Smith, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac White and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Luisa Bucher, moved hundreds of gallons of water, ensured required equipment was in place and ready, and served as road guards.

“They handled demanding physical work without complaint,” Hoff said. “They were simply amazing.”

Hoff also recognized a number of senior members who were crucial to the encampment’s success, most notably those who helped plan the activity. Capt. Joanna Moseley served as the commandant of cadets, Maj. Ken Smith was the deputy commander for support, Capt. Jim Seeds was the safety officer, and Maj. Jeremy Cochran managed administration and logistics.





**Above:** Working in teams throughout the week leads to camaraderie, as cadets support each other during sometimes difficult tasks.

**Below:** The command team for the 2019 Summer Encampment included (L-R) Cadet Maj. Brandon Larkham, Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little, and Cadet Maj. Mackenzie Mollohan.

"You will not find anyone more dedicated to our cadet corps than that tremendous team," Hoff said. "I'm so grateful to them. Encampment wouldn't have been the success that it was without them."

Hoff called the training officers "the backbone of any encampment" and said the wing was fortunate to have "a phenomenal team."

Second Lt. Amber O'Donnell served as the senior training officer and coordinated a team of senior members who followed their assigned flights all over Fort Huachuca. The training officers were: 1st Lt. Katie Andrieu, 2nd Lt. Frank Arvizu, Maj. Seth Gaertner, Capt. Daryl Hudnall, Lt. Col. Charles Jarvis, 1st Lt. Jim Lahti, 1st Lt. Mike Ricker, and 1st Lt. Kyle Rossi. Additionally, 2nd Lt. Dee O'Connor managed the orientation flight schedule and assisted with special meals for cadets with dietary restrictions. Capt. Katie Hamiel, who commanded the encampment in 2017, dropped into encampment from out-of-state to support the cadet PAO staff before heading back to California as soon as encampment ended.

Lt. Col. Ken McKinley coordinated the cadet orientation flights that took place at encampment. Pilots Maj. Steve Rosenberg, Lt. Col. Denny Peebles, Maj. Mark Schadt, and Maj. Joe Wypych volunteered their time to take cadets on their orientation flights at daybreak.



Hoff also noted that Arizona Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris visited encampment for a few days to meet the cadet and senior staff and lend her support to this important activity. "We also received helpful visits from our CAP-RAP partners who lent their experience and expertise to encampment," Hoff said.

He noted that the team has no chance to rest on its laurels, as planning for next year's encampment is already underway. 🍷



**Top:** Socorro Composite Squadron Public Affairs Officer and Deputy Commander Lt. Col. David Finley, keynote speaker for the Apollo 11 celebration, recounts the history of the U.S. space program, leading up to the first Moon landing. (All Photos: Courtesy of Ms. Colleen Gino)

### ***New Mexico Wing Squadron Teams with New Mexico Tech for Apollo Anniversary***

*by Socorro Composite Squadron Public Affairs, CAP*

SOCORRO, N.M. – New Mexico Wing's Socorro Composite Squadron joined with New Mexico Tech University for a community celebration of the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 – the first landing on the Moon. The event, held at New Mexico Tech's Macey Conference Center on July 19, 2019, featured a keynote presentation on Apollo 11, along with exhibits and activities about space flight, astronomy, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education.

More than 200 people attended the celebration, which was jointly sponsored by the Civil Air Patrol squadron and the university.

"The Apollo anniversary was an excellent opportunity for us to turn an open house into an exciting aerospace education event for our members and the entire community," said squadron commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter. "We were honored to have the university join us in providing the venue and helping publicize the event," he added.

University president Dr. Stephen Wells said he was pleased to have New Mexico Tech help sponsor a commemoration of one of the most important events in human history. "For those of us who remember the Moon landing, that day was a formative experience that stirred our imagination and encouraged many of us to pursue a life of science and engineering," Wells said.

The celebration featured a presentation called, "Apollo 11: Eyewitness to History," by Lt. Col. David Finley, who related his experience of personally watching, hearing and feeling the



awesome power of the Saturn V rocket as it launched the astronauts toward their rendezvous with the Moon.

**Right:** Socorro Composite Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter tells the audience about CAP and its missions,

**Below:** At the squadron information booth, 2nd Lt. Christine Kurtnaker answers questions from the public.

In an abundantly-illustrated talk, Finley put the historic flight in the context of its times, including the Space Race that began with the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957, and the Cold War that spawned the Space Race. He recounted the saga of the American space effort that produced Apollo 11's historic milestone, described later space achievements, and concluded with a look at the future of space flight.

Finley is the historian for Civil Air Patrol's six-state Southwest Region. Currently the Socorro Composite Squadron's deputy commander, he commanded the squadron from its founding in 2007 until 2015. He is a widely-published author, a private pilot and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The celebration included exhibits and activities provided by Spaceport America, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Magdalena Ridge Observatory, New Mexico Tech and the Socorro Composite Squadron.

"Our members staffed a booth to answer questions about CAP and to provide literature," said Hunter. "We get to give many community members their first contact with CAP, and make them aware of all the opportunities our organization has to offer. As a bonus, we get some excellent recruiting prospects," he added. 🍷







LA CAP MISSION# 19-T-5983 SORTIE#G-34 Date: 19SEP19 TOT: 2314Z Lat=N29 56.96' Lon=W093 05.36' Alt=-13ft MSL

**Top:** Targeted ground and air photo reconnaissance missions are requested by client agencies in order to establish the presence of damage or unavailability of infrastructure assets. (Photo: Louisiana Wing Mission Team, CAP)

## ***Civil Air Patrol's Louisiana Wing Participates in Region-Wide Exercise***

*by Maj. Walter Leuci, CAP, Louisiana Wing.*

BATON ROUTE, La. – As of September 19, 2019, Louisiana Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is engaged in a region-wide training exercise along with other assets from the Southwest Region member wings of Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This exercise allows these wings not only to confirm their readiness to respond to a widespread disaster but also to test their ability to coordinate operations with other states in CAP's Southwest Region.

The event is a “no notice” maximum-readiness mobility exercise, with emphasis on accurate and timely information flow to the region command headquarters. The objective is to mobilize all region assets in a one-week period. CAP air crews and ground teams strive to deploy as quickly as possible.

As many as eighty-four aircraft in the six-state region, along with a large number of ground vehicles and personnel, are participating in this exercise.

Civil Air Patrol support to the community comes in the way of airborne photography to assess damage to infrastructure and to search for people who may need help in some manner. Its ground teams assist the local agencies such as the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, law enforcement agencies and other military organizations to disperse needed supplies to the community and to support communications between participating agencies. 📷



**Top:** (L-R) Broken Arrow Composite Squadron's Triple Diamond Club: Lt. Col. Scott McCarty, Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan and Maj. David Snell. (Photo: Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP)

### ***Triple Diamond Club Growing in Oklahoma Wing Squadron***

*by Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is all about helping communities, and CAP members are all about volunteering their time to make their communities better. The road from Cadet Airman to the highest grade of Cadet Colonel, known as the General Carl Spaatz Achievement, takes hard work, dedication, time, education, and the backing of both the squadron and the cadet's family.

As of July 14, 2019, Broken Arrow Composite Squadron has three senior members who are recipients of the Spaatz Award. One of the three members has been with the squadron since first joining as a cadet. They all say they want to keep paying it forward to the next generation of CAP cadets. The first Spaatz achievement was awarded in 1964. Currently, over 2,200 CAP cadets have achieved the grade of Cadet Colonel.

Maj. David Snell is Spaatz recipient number 947. He completed his Spaatz achievement on April 18, 1989, when he was a junior at Montana Tech studying engineering. Former Montana Governor Stan Stephens presented the award to him.

"I joined Butte Composite Squadron in Butte, Montana, in October 1985," Snell said. "That summer I had attended the second annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Academy for youths aged 15 to 17; I was 16 at the time. That Fall I met the squadron's cadet commander who was also a high school classmate, who looked me up when he saw my picture in the local newspaper in an article about my Air Academy experience."





**Left:** Maj. David Snell as a CAP cadet. *(Photo of himself taken with a delayed-timer setting)*

Snell was immediately attracted to the structure, discipline and professionalism he saw in the cadets at Butte Composite Squadron. "I was very interested in the aviation and emergency services aspect of the organization," he said. "Growing up in a mining town of 35,000 in southwest Montana, there weren't too many young people interested in aviation. I instantly felt that I fit in with the CAP cadets."

One of Snell's favorite memories as a cadet is attending Cadet Leadership School at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1986. "We ate in the dining hall with Academy cadets and Academy professors led our courses," he said. "While at the Academy, the movie *Top Gun* came out in theaters, and many of our cadets first saw the film at the academy theater."

Another cadet memory is attending a joint encampment at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska. "We were flown there on an Air National Guard C-130, and we trained with Army Rangers at the Army's Arctic Light Fighter Academy," Snell said.

As a senior member, Snell traveled with his unit's cadet commander to attend the Squadron Leadership Course at the Air Force Academy. They also traveled with Lt. Col. Phil Beagles. "Col. Beagles was a World War II veteran and a former smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service," Snell said. "He was also a CAP pilot. I learned a tremendous amount from him and still see him as a mentor in my life to this day."

Snell has been a CAP member in Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon and Oklahoma. He and his daughter Sydney were once members of Tulsa-area Star Base Composite Squadron. Although Sydney earned her Mitchell Award, she is no longer active in CAP. Snell is currently commander of the recently formed Jenks Flight and deputy commander of Broken Arrow Composite Squadron. He is paying it forward as the aerospace education officer and communications officer for Broken Arrow. He is also the Oklahoma Wing Group One communications officer.

Lt. Col. Scott McCarty is Spaatz recipient number 960. He completed his Spaatz achievement on September 15, 1989 in New Mexico Wing. Maj. Gen. Edward A. McGough III presented the Spaatz award to him.

"I joined Eagle Composite Squadron in Albuquerque on March 20, 1986," said McCarty. "We met at Kirtland Air Force Base in the New Mexico Wing headquarters building. When I was a cadet, the squadron's charter number was 30012; now it is SWR-NM-012."





**Above:** Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan as a cadet major with an F-16 in the background, after having enlisted with the Oklahoma Air National Guard. (Photo: Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP)

McCarty joined Civil Air Patrol because his goal was to attend the Air Force Academy. “Before attending high school in Albuquerque, I grew up in Littleton, Colorado,” he said. “Our family would often take trips across the state, frequently passing by the USAF Academy. When we drove by on I-25I, I always looked for any glider or flight activity at the Academy.”

“My mother told me that only the best people were admitted, and it would probably be difficult for me to go there,” he said. “Her ‘reverse psychology’ ploy worked quite well in motivating me even more, because she also always told me that I could do anything if I put my mind to it.” McCarty was a qualified alternate to the USAF Academy two years in a row. After completing two years of college, he decided not to attempt a third application. “I had a full scholarship to the University of New Mexico,” he said. “I continued there to earn my BSEE in 1991.”

McCarty was an active cadet. He was selected to participate in the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program, traveling to West Germany in 1989. He also participated in the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) and was cadet commander of his squadron. “Everything I participated in through CAP is a cherished memory, and each one taught me a great deal,” he said. “From driving the winning volleyball point for cadet competition in New Mexico to watching our squadron grow with every rank, these activities helped make me who I am.”

“I have the greatest appreciation for those who poured their lives into mine; teaching me,” he continued. “Especially the late Col. Robert Haulenbeek, who selflessly gave of his time providing

flight instruction for solo scholarship recipients. If I were to pick a favorite cadet activity, definitely I would go with earning my private pilot's license in June 1990."

As a senior member, McCarty has directed Squadron Leadership School SLS courses and Corporate Learning Course classes, and been master of ceremonies at a New Mexico Wing Conference. "My most engaging senior member experience is attending Southeast Region Staff College at McGee Tyson ANGB in Tennessee," he said. "My daughter topped that memory when she decided to join CAP as a cadet in the summer of 2019. She seems unstoppable and has a stated goal of outperforming me, which I believe she can do." McCarty has been a member of New Mexico and Oklahoma Wings. Currently he is the Broken Arrow Composite Squadron's professional development officer.

Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan is Spaatz recipient number 2,190. He completed his Spaatz achievement on July 14, 2018. His Oklahoma Air National Guard Commander, Colonel Bruce Hamilton, presented the Spaatz award to him. At the presentation, Hamilton told the audience, "Not very many people do you meet in the world that will look you straight in the eye and you can just tell that they are going to go places."

LeVan joined Broken Arrow Composite Squadron as a cadet on May 24, 2014. He earned his first stripe the week before he attended his first encampment in July, 2014. "I have been able to do so many things with CAP," LeVan said. "My favorite activity as a cadet is also my last activity as a cadet. My trip to Australia this past summer through IACE was the highlight of my cadet career." He spent three weeks in Australia with cadets from all over the world.

Like Snell and McCarty, LeVan is an aviation enthusiast. He attended Southwest Region powered flight academy in Shawnee in 2016, where he completed his solo flight in a Cessna 172. "I am close to my private pilot license," he said. "I am going through a private instructor. I was not able to participate in the CAP flight program for cadets because of scheduling options."

LeVan is also qualified as ground team member level one. He has participated in several search and rescue missions, both on the ground and as air crew. One of his most memorable experiences as a cadet is looking for a missing person in the Lake Eufaula area. His team was out most of a Friday evening and into Saturday morning. "Our team took a mandatory rest break," he said. "We then went back the next day to search some more. The missing person search turned into a recovery. That was a hard mission."

LeVan served his squadron at all cadet levels, from cadet first sergeant to cadet recruiting officer and finally cadet commander. He was the Oklahoma Wing's cadet safety officer, a CAC delegate and Region CAC delegate. He attended and staffed several encampments and completed Cadet Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

LeVan was named Oklahoma Cadet of the Year in 2017. He was the master of ceremonies at Oklahoma Wing Conference in 2018.

When LeVan joined Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, there was a mentor program in place. His mentor was Lt. Col. Eugene Johnson. The two talked every week. "Col. Johnson is a big reason I succeeded in CAP," LeVan said. "He talked to me and I felt comfortable talking to him. He came to my high school several times to just have lunch with me. Col. Johnson passed away unexpectedly on my junior year of high school. I was extremely honored when his family asked me to be a pall bearer at his funeral. I still miss talking to him."

LeVan looks forward to being an active CAP senior member. "I have had so many people advise me through my cadet career," he said. "I am extremely grateful for those who took time to mentor me and I want to return the favor."

All three members report to Maj. Tina Nazarian.

"I am in awe of the knowledge and performance required for completing the Spaatz achievement," Nazarian said. "I am blessed to lead a squadron with three Spaatz Award recipients. The experience and CAP history they bring is a benefit to both me as the commander and to the entire unit." 🍷





**Top:** (L-R) Teacher Mrs. Deanna Chapman during her first flight on a Cessna aircraft and CAP Pilot 2nd Lt. John Brookby, a member of the Crusader Composite Squadron. (Photo: Courtesy of Mrs. Deanna Chapman)

## ***First Texas Wing TOP Flight Mission Achieves National Objectives at the Local Level***

*by Capt. Phil Gerke, CAP, Texas Wing*

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas – On August 31, 2019, 2nd Lt. John Brookby, a member of the Crusader Composite Squadron, flew Mrs. Deanna Chapman on her first Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) sortie thanks to new policy guidelines from National Headquarters. He had planned on taking CAP cadets aloft for one of their five authorized front-seat powered orientation flights, but since no cadets were available, he took advantage of National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith's memorandum streamlining the procedure for TOP flights.

Chapman is an Aerospace Education Member (AEM) of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). She teaches 6th and 8th grade science at the Young Women's Leadership Academy at Arnold in Grand Prairie, Texas, a Title I public school that focuses on offering traditionally disadvantaged female students the opportunity for studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related fields. Chapman was so excited about the benefits of Aerospace Education Membership that she immediately paid the fee out of her pocket, not wanting to wait for a purchase order to work its way through channels for funding.

When Texas Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Sue Kristoffersen read Maj. Gen. Smith's new policies emphasizing CAP's Aerospace Education mission and streamlining the process by which AEMs can receive their Teacher Orientation Program flights, she notified all aerospace education officers (AEOs) in the wing. She also coordinated with Wing Operations to generate a funded mission number that authorized pilot volunteers to fly TOP sorties, that would pay for those sorties' fuel and maintenance costs. This made it possible for Lt. Brookby to give Mrs. Chapman her Teacher Orientation flight on very short notice.

Aerospace Education Membership provides teachers nationwide with free access for life to CAP's extensive aerospace education curriculum support materials, including STEM-related kits designed to guide hands-on educational activities for students ranging in grades from kindergarten to high school seniors. These members, who form a special cadre of CAP, need not wear uniforms or attend local squadron meetings. Their mission objective is to instill and develop a life-long interest in aerospace in the students they teach in their classrooms

Kristoffersen also provided her AEOs with a listing of individual AEMs in their local area, complete with contact information. Extracting this information from the Aerospace Education database enabled individual AEOs to easily reach out to individual AEMs, informing them of their TOP flight opportunity.

The day before the event, a surprise Friday-afternoon thunderstorm had threatened the flight planned for the following day, but the remaining cloudiness on Saturday morning provided a topic for a scientific discussion on meteorology. Also, the heavy cloud cover that threatened crosswinds and rain delayed the scheduled takeoff long enough for a thorough pre-flight discussion of aircraft aerodynamics. Once the dark clouds moved away, the stable airmass allowed the flight to be silky smooth. Finally, the normally scorching late-August sun was shielded by residual high clouds, keeping temperatures comfortable in the non-airconditioned aircraft.

Chapman was surprised at how smooth the flight was. "I actually expected the flight to be bumpier, and the take off and the landing to be rougher, so I was surprised at how smooth things were. It was a little scary at first to think about going up in something that small, but once we got up there it wasn't scary at all. It was actually fun." What impressed Chapman the most about her TOP flight experience of going up in a general aviation aircraft was the depth of knowledge that CAP pilots have about the weather and how airplanes work, which fit in with the subjects of the weather and the forces of motion that she teaches.

That hour that Chapman spent in the air was greatly enhanced by the 30 minutes she had spent walking around the airplane with Brookby during the preflight discussion. As the pilot described the various aerodynamic forces acting on the airplane, the teacher interpreted them as the application of science and math to aeronautics. The two talked about how thrust and drag are in balance in level flight, as are lift and gravity. But any change to a control surface on the wing or tail, or any change in power or loading, changes that balance. They discussed what happens when engine power is increased or reduced, and how there are various effects of turning, climbing, and descending. "Because we discussed all these in depth on the ground," said Brookby, "we were then able to 'feel' those forces in flight." It was a good real-life demonstration of the science of flight, and she hoped to be able to apply these principles in her teaching.

Chapman felt excited about later sharing this experience with her students, because the flight gave her real-world applications that she can use in her classroom to help her students better understand physical science concepts. "I am eager to get them thinking about going into aviation. I teach at an all-girl school; getting our girls excited about science, engineering or any of the STEM fields is really important to our school. Being able to show them that, yes, look, women can do this! We can learn these things, we can do these things, and look how much fun it is!"

A major difference Chapman noticed between the small general aviation CAP aircraft she flew and the large scheduled airliners on which she frequently flies was the sensitivity to air currents. "When we were doing the turns, I could feel the movement of the airplane with the winds," she commented. "You don't experience that on an airliner, unless you get heavy turbulence."



Describing how she felt about handling the aircraft controls after reaching a safe altitude, Chapman said, "That was a step outside my comfort zone, but it was a great experience. I didn't realize how much force there was on the yoke. When I first took over, the nose started to go down a little, so I had to learn to keep pulling back a little to keep it level. And then, just a slight turn [of the yoke] and we were banking, actually going somewhere."

Another aspect of the TOP flight that surprised Chapman was the distance she had traveled. "I didn't realize how far we had gone until after we got back down on the ground and saw the track of the flight on the map. We actually went all over the place even though it felt like we really didn't go very far at all. It was so calm and very peaceful up there. It was fun to have that time to steer the plane."

Also, from her TOP flight, Chapman gained a new perspective on how big the world is. "When you get up in the air you can see Arlington, Grand Prairie, and Dallas, all at the same time. When you are standing on the ground, you just don't realize how big the area is here. However, from the air, you get to see it all and it is really huge up there. It is very interesting."

Thanks to her TOP flight, Chapman learned that CAP can benefit her students two ways. First, external aerospace education offers in-classroom and field-trip support for her students. Arrangements can be made for CAP pilots to be guest speakers about aviation careers. CAP AEOs can assist in STEM-related activities. And CAP members can be the connection between AEMs and the aerospace facilities that students can visit. And second, CAP's cadet program offers students aged 12-18 opportunities to grow in leadership, aerospace education, physical activity, and character development. By progressing through the program up to cadet officer ranks, students can become eligible for special activities such as earning their private pilot's license and college scholarships. The résumé-building experiences of leading and managing other cadets, as well as being held accountable for filling positions of responsibility benefit everyone.

"My principal, Janna Burns, will be thrilled to hear about the programs," said Chapman. Then added, "She is working hard on building our STEM program. We want every opportunity available for our girls." 🍷



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**Left:** (L-R) After landing, CAP Pilot 2nd Lt. John Brookby and Teacher Mrs. Deanna Chapman. (Photo: Capt. Phil Gerke, CAP.)

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## ***New Mexico Wing Pilot Supports National Blue Beret Search and Rescue***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

OSHKOSH, Wis. – During July 22-29, 2019, Civil Air Patrol's Wisconsin Wing was activated by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) to provide search and rescue support during the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, during which Civil Air Patrol's National Blue Beret activity also participates.

New Mexico Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy served as incident commander for the mission, as well as serving as public information officer for the AirVenture activity. This was his 12th year volunteering for heading up this mission.

"The EAA mission is one of the largest in the country," said Klassy.

Civil Air Patrol was tasked to locate all overdue aircraft and emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) within 50 nautical miles of Oshkosh.

With the world's largest fly-in attracting more than 642,000 people (up 6 percent from the previous year) and more than 10,000 airplanes, keeping track of them is no small task. EAA's AirVenture has about 127 takeoffs and landings per hour.

During the 2019 EAA search and rescue mission, Wisconsin Wing flew almost 55 flight hours and conducted more than 400 ground sorties, totaling an estimated 18,928 work hours.

Civil Air Patrol teams, based at seven different airports, monitored aircraft movement and listened for ELTs. The search teams also found 19 missing aircraft, safe at their destination, and deactivated an additional 20 non-distress ELT beacons.

In addition to the search and rescue duties, Civil Air Patrol members from around the country assisted the EAA with flight line marshalling and directing aircraft to their correct parking areas, as part of CAP's National Blue Beret activity.

Over 200 CAP cadets and senior members arrived a week early for training, before the AirVenture began on July 22, 2019. Several New Mexico Wing cadets attended, including two cadets from West Mesa Composite Squadron and one cadet from Santa Fe Composite Squadron.

As part of the Blue Beret Activity, CAP members provided crowd control during the air show, as well as security for the static aircraft displays. 🇺🇸

**Below:** (L-R) New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters and Vice Commander Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy, taken at the Group 800 Change of Command Ceremony. *(File photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)*







**Top:** Photo taken on August 22, 2019, (L-R) Assistant Principal Erin Holly, Mrs. Becky Fritchie, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, and Principal Laura Gilbert, as Fritchie receives the Southwest Region Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Award. (Photo: Courtesy of Spanish Lake Primary School Staff)

## ***Louisiana Wing Member Wins Southwest Region Award***

*by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

GEISMAR, La – Ascension Parish teacher Mrs. Becky Fritchie has won the prestigious Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Southwest Region Educator of the Year Award, becoming one of the top 8 aerospace educators in the country. The Southwest Region of the Civil Air Patrol includes Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas Wings.

Fritchie, who has distinguished herself as an educator, had won the Louisiana CAP Aerospace Education Member (AEM) Award in 2017. In 2018 she won the Louisiana Aerospace Educator of the Year Award. For 2019, Fritchie was also chosen to participate in STEM research at NASA's Johnson Space Center with 10 other teachers from around the country.

She attends and presents at educator conferences and shares her enthusiasm, techniques and knowledge with other teachers. She said, "My professional aspiration is to empower teachers to have the courage and confidence to try new ideas so that they may grow in their professional abilities and inspire their students to grow as well."

Fritchie teaches 5th grade mathematics and science at Spanish Lake Primary School. Ms. Laura Gilbert, Fritchie's principal, remarked, "We are fortunate to have Becky Fritchie as a teacher. Her passion for teaching and learning is contagious. The experiences that our students gain from being in her classroom are priceless, as she includes innovative ideas and challenges them on a daily basis." She added, "Her way of inspiring students to have the same passion she has for exploration and learning is impressive. She has an excitement that is rare. I would definitely consider her a lifelong learner as she is constantly striving to do more and learn as many new innovative ideas as she can to bring back to her classroom to prepare our students for the future." 🍷

**Left:** (L-R) Australian Air Force Air Marshall Mel Hupfeld and Cadet Col. Kurt LeVan hold a lithograph of an F-16. (Photo: Courtesy Australian Air Force.

## **Oklahoma Wing Cadet Spends Part of Summer in Australia**

*by Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – Cadet Col. Kurt LeVan, a member of the Broken Arrow composite squadron, spent several weeks this summer touring Australia. He was one of four American cadets selected to tour Australia and spend time on Australian Air Bases from September 27, 2019 to August 8, 2019 with the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE).

Civil Air Patrol participates with eighteen nations in the IACE each year. Cadets must be between the ages of 17 and 21, hold the rank of at least Captain, submit a résumé of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) activities and achievements, and pass an in-depth interview. The CAP national website describes IACE as a life shaping experience.

LeVan is also an Airman with Oklahoma Air National Guard. He was asked by Col. Bruce Hamilton to

present lithographs of F-16s to the Air Force Bases in Australia.

“It was an incredible experience to talk to pilots and other airmen from Australia’s Air Force,” LeVan said. “Just to be able to compare their work life to our work life in the U.S. is interesting.”

Chief among those Australian Airmen that LeVan met was Air Marshall Mel Hupfeld, who is the highest-ranking officer in the Australian Air Force.

“Having the opportunity to meet with their senior Air Force leadership was extremely humbling,” LeVan said. “Our two nations have fought on the battlefield together, and the relationship between our countries is more important now than ever before.”

The American cadets met in San Francisco and flew to New Zealand first, and then on to Brisbane, Australia. They also toured the Australian capital of Canberra and spent the last days of their tour in Sydney. They visited the Australia Zoo, Bondi Beach, and were able to sit in on a session of Parliament. They also visited the War Memorial in Canberra, where they participated in a wreath laying ceremony.

Cadet LeVan joined CAP in 2014. He has participated in several Encampments. He attended the Southwest Region Powered Flight Academy where he completed a solo flight in a Cessna 172 aircraft. He also spent two weeks at Maxwell Air Force Base for Cadet Officer School. He has worked in several search and rescue missions and is a certified aircrew scanner as well as a ground team leader. LeVan reached the highest CAP cadet grade of Colonel when he completed his Spaatz Achievement in 2018. He is a sophomore at Rogers State University. 🍷





**Top:** Mission sorties were tracked and managed in the operations center. (L-R) Maj. Carla Day, Capt. Russell Miller, Capt. Mike Griffith, Maj. Roger Yaeger, and Senior Member Jesse Hutchison. (Photos: 1st Lt. Don Fry, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Squadron Hosts Arizona Wing OPEX/Commander's Call***

*by Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – On August 3, 2019, the officers and cadets of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 hosted an Arizona Wing Operational Exercise (OpEx) and Wing Commanders Call. Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris planned the day so that the emergency services and operations teams could practice a wing-wide OpEx while the wing staff conducted the quarterly meeting of commanders.

Airplanes from across the wing delivered commanders to the meeting, then were tasked to fly more than 22 sorties and 29 hours in support of the OpEx. Incident Command staff ran the mission from the 302 operations center, using the squadron's communications equipment to direct the missions. The Deer Valley CAP facility was selected for the fly-in and exercise because of its central location and its ability to provide the support needed for both events.

A total of eight wing aircraft filled the aircraft parking area adjacent to the squadron building. Maj. Chris Shehi, Deer Valley's operations officer, conducted an aircraft marshalling class prior to the weekend OpEx, to prepare cadets and senior members to effectively control the flow of aircraft and personnel on the flightline. During the OpEx, the cadets' emphasis on correct technique and proper safety precautions led to zero accidents or incidents.

During the day, Wing Maintenance Officer Lt. Col. Jim Fendley took the opportunity to conduct maintenance inspections. Wing Assistant Safety Officers Lt. Col. David Mickle and Maj. Dolly Mickle conducted a safety check of Squadron 302 facilities.

Because of the large number of aircrews, incident command staff, and cadets using the squadron building, staff members coordinated with the Aero Guard flight training facility to borrow a classroom for the Commander's Call. First Lt. Don Fry and Maj. Chris Dusard ensured that the classroom facilities were set up and ready for the commanders. Col. Morris and senior staff briefed the commanders on Southwest Region metrics and where the Arizona Wing stands, a recap of the national conference, a safety report, best practices for Subordinate Unit Inspections, the sUAS program, and more.



**Above:** Cadets, closely supervised by senior members, assisted with aircraft marshalling and parking.

Also going on at the squadron building was a meeting of the Cadet Advisory Council, led by Squadron 302's Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Nic Fuqua. Along with their regular meeting, cadets could watch the wing practice its emergency services training.

Following the commander's call, Col. Morris invited the participants to join her for lunch at Squadron 302. Squadron members had put together a lunch menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, pulled pork, mac and cheese, coleslaw and potato salad, along with soft drinks for all. Even though temperatures were well above 100 degrees, the open hangar was cooled by two giant evaporative coolers, on loan from the nearby Honeywell facility, that worked to keep temperatures moderate.

Col. Morris congratulated Squadron 302 members for their hospitality and hard work to support the wing. "I really appreciate how your squadron stepped up and answered the call, on short notice, to support the Wing for this busy day," Morris said. "Thank you for your commitment to your squadron, Wing and CAP."

In addition to Squadron 302 team members, at some point more than 39 Arizona Wing personnel were in the squadron building.

"It was a resounding success," said Maj. Mark Schadt, Squadron 302's commander. "I wish to thank Squadron 302 personnel for their hard work and dedication in providing a welcoming, interesting and enjoyable experience for Arizona Wing visitors and Squadron 302 personnel alike."

Schadt pointed out that it takes a village (in this case a squadron) to put on an event of this size and scope. First Lt. Jason Garde was the host project officer and lined up the giant coolers. Shehi was the flightline coordinator/instructor and supervisor, Dusard was the emergency services officer, Capt. John Shoemaker ensured the incident command post was staffed and ready, Maj. Ruben Kafanbaum was the communications unit leader while 1st Lt. James Martin handled IT and communications. First Lt. Mike Matteson and 2nd Lt. Stephen Deymonaz provided transportation between Aero Guard and the squadron. Fry and his sUAS team of 1st Lt. John Moore and 2nd Lt. Brett Seidell set up their equipment for all to see during lunch and answered questions from the unit commanders and staff.

Other Squadron 302 members helping to ensure the success of the activity included 1st Lt. Mike Ricker, mission pilot and chief cook; Capt. Gordon Helm, mission scanner/AP and assistant cook; 1st Lt. Stephen Barnes, mission observer and aircrew assignment manager; Fuqua who worked the flightline and was assistant cook in addition to his CAC meeting oversight; Miller, mission pilot; Maj. Daryl Duncan, ICP staffing; and 1st Lt. Jaemyung Kim, flightline trainee and support.

"Despite the heat, many members expressed how great it was for everyone to get together," Schadt said. "We look forward to having more of these types of events at our squadron and other locations throughout the wing." 🍷



**Right:** (L-R) S.M. Jeremy Stevens in background, Cadet Staff Sgt. Jeremy Stevens II, Cadet Staff Sgt. William Bankston, Cadet Airman Preston Rogers and Maj. John McCrory. (Photo: Louisiana Wing Public Affairs, CAP)

## **Louisiana Wing Cadets Experience Flight in a Cessna Aircraft**

by Lt. Col. David Taylor,  
CAP, Louisiana Wing

HAMMOND, La. – On June 19, 2019, the Hammond Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets experienced flight in the right seat of a Cessna 172 aircraft. Each cadet was thrilled with the excitement of taking the controls to pilot the aircraft through the open sky. The pilot in charge, Maj. John McCrory, safely observed each cadet at the controls.

Cadets learned the use and effect of the flight controls on the ground while taxiing, as well as in the air. Each cadet practiced learning how a checklist is used in every step of engine start, takeoff, level flight, preparing for landing, and shutdown. Each cadet is entitled to receive five flights in the right seat and unlimited rear-seat flights.

The flights were coordinated by Deputy Commander of Cadets Maj. Jimmie Cox, using the Cadet Orientation Rides CAP program.

Cadets that flew were Cadet Sgt. William Bankston, Cadet Airman Dylan Barfield, Cadet Sgt. Jackson Fogelman, Cadet Airman Preston Rogers, Cadet Sr. Airman Jeremy Stevens, Cadet Airman Wyatt Stutte, and Cadet Airman Conner Stutte. 🇺🇸



## ***New Mexico Wing Commander Appoints Three New Group Commanders, Replacing the Two Wing Vice Commanders***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On July 20, 2019, at the New Mexico Wing Commanders Call and Staff Meeting, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters appointed three new group commanders, to more effectively manage the squadrons throughout New Mexico Wing.

Instead of having two vice commanders managing as many as 10 squadrons each – a process that Peters found unwieldy as New Mexico Wing Vice Commander-North – the new command structure will have two group commanders in charge of five squadrons each, and one group commander in charge of six squadrons. Additionally, Group 800, which oversees all School Enrichment Program squadrons in the Wing, will manage seven squadrons.

New Mexico Wing Vice Commander **Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy**, will exercise direct command and control over the three new Groups – Northern, Central and Southern – as well as Group 800. All group commanders will report to Klassy, who in turn will report to Peters.

Klassy has been a CAP member since November 1978. Originally from Wisconsin, Klassy served there as squadron commander, testing officer and safety officer and, upon his transfer to New Mexico Wing in October 2015, has spent most of his time with Group 800 – as safety officer, advisor to the commander and deputy commander. His last assignment before his appointment as Wing Vice Commander was as Group 800 Commander, a position he had held since August 2016.



**Lt. Col. Andrew F. Selph** was appointed commander of the Northern Group, which includes all squadrons north of Albuquerque: Farmington Composite Squadron, Los Alamos Composite Squadron, Route 66 Composite Squadron, Santa Fe Composite Squadron and Taos Composite Squadron.

Selph has been a CAP member since October 1978, when he joined as a cadet. He has served as squadron commander twice – once at Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron from 1995 to 1998, and again at Eagle Cadet Squadron from 2010 to 2013. At the Wing level, he served as director of cadet programs. He is a recipient of the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, the highest award

that can be earned by a cadet, and the Gill Robb Wilson Award, the highest professional development level that can be earned by a senior member.

**Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert** will serve as commander of the Central Group, which includes all squadrons in the Albuquerque Metro area: Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron, Albuquerque Senior Squadron II, Eagle Cadet Squadron, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron, Thunderbird Composite Squadron and West Mesa Composite Squadron.





Eckert has been a CAP member since May 2008. As a member of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron, he has served as squadron commander, deputy commander, deputy commander for seniors and advisor to the commander. At the Wing level, he has served as search and rescue training officer, and as ground branch director for search and rescue exercises. It was under Eckert's command that Albuquerque Heights Composite squadron was named Civil Air Patrol's Squadron of Distinction in 2013, making it CAP's Number One squadron among more than 1,500 squadrons nationwide.



**Lt. Col. Dennis M. Hunter**, as Southern Group Commander, will command all squadrons south of Albuquerque: Alamogordo Composite Squadron, Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron, Las Cruces Composite Squadron, Roswell Composite Squadron and Socorro Composite Squadron.

Hunter has been a CAP member since July 2008. He has served as logistics officer, transportation officer, personnel officer, administrative officer, communications officer and commander of Socorro Composite Squadron, a position he has held since April 2016. He is also assigned as New Mexico Wing assistant director of safety, and has served as mission safety officer on Wing search and rescue exercises.

**Lt. Col William R. Fitzpatrick**, as the newly-assigned commander of Group 800, will oversee all School Enrichment Program squadrons throughout the state: AIMS Cadet Squadron, LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron and Tony Hillerman Cadet Squadron, all located in Albuquerque; Carlos F. Vigil Middle School Cadet Squadron in Española; and Belen Middle School Cadet Squadron, Clovis Schools Cadet Squadron and Socorro High School Cadet Squadron, all located in their respective cities.

Fitzpatrick has been a CAP member since September 1999, when he joined as a cadet. He is a recipient of Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award, which carried with it promotion to cadet captain, and made him eligible for promotion to first lieutenant when he became a senior member at age 21. His positions at the squadron level have included leadership officer, operations officer and deputy commander for cadets. At the group level, he has served as emergency services officer and standardization/evaluation officer. He has also served as director of professional development for New Mexico Wing. He most recently served as commander of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron.



The newly-created groups, in addition to Group 800, will be headquartered at New Mexico Wing Headquarters, and will have a minimum of two to three staff members each. "The group commanders have been put in place to mentor the squadron commanders, and to see to it that the needs of the squadrons are met for them to be fully functional," said Peters.

Eckert, speaking of his new role as group commander, said, "I see myself as a mentor. Right now, my job is to motivate the squadron commanders to do better." 🍷

*(All photos: CAP National Headquarters)*



**Top:** Cadets participate in a team-building exercise. (Photo: 1st Lt. Roseanne Marquez, CAP)

**Below:** Cadets learn about CAP Chain of Command from trainers Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aidan Buckner (left) and Cadet Staff Sgt. Dylan Conrad. Cadets seated at the table are (L-R) Cadet Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Jones, Cadet Airman First Class Gabriel Jones, Cadet Staff Sgt. Brooklyn Schwiesow, Cadet Senior Airman Vincent Grubar and Cadet Airman Brooke McComas. (All other photos: Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP)

## Arizona Wing Squadron Cadets Off to a Great Start

by Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – Over the weekend of July 20-21, 2019, cadets in Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 received an orientation to the Civil Air Patrol and the cadet program through the Great Start Program. The 161st Air Refueling Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard granted the squadron the rare privilege of allowing cadets and senior members to stay overnight at the base so that the Great Start Program could be held.







**Above:** Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aidan Buckner and Cadet Staff Sgt. Dylan Conrad teach cadets about CAP Customs and Courtesies

**Below:** Cadets practice a hand salute.

Cadets attended classes in customs and courtesies, Civil Air Patrol history, uniform care, use of eServices, National Cadet Special Activities, and leadership. Cadets were tested on the knowledge they gained in these classes. In addition, they participated in drill, team building and physical training activities. Classes and activities were conducted by Squadron 301 Cadet NCOs, under senior members' supervision.

Cadets receiving orientation through the Great Start Program were: Cadet Airman Brooke McComas, Cadet Staff Sgt. Brooklyn Schwiesow, Cadet Senior Airman Vincent Grubar, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Jones, and Cadet Airman First Class Gabriel Jones

Sky Harbor Composite Squadron NCOs who conducted the training classes and activities included: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aidan Buckner, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kennedy Duong, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Kohl, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Eric Micheau, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Sean Geraghty, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Dylan Conrad.

The weekend's activities were supervised by Majors David Moseley and Jeremy Cochran and 1st Lt. Roseanne Marquez.

"Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 members are very grateful to the 161st Air Refueling Wing for the use of the base facilities to conduct the two-day orientation course for cadets," said Squadron Commander Moseley. 🇺🇸







LA CAP MISSION# 19-1-5637 SORTIE# A0003 Date: 15JUL19 TOT: 1352Z Lat=N29 35' 54.92" Lon=W091 31' 47.94" Alt=1037ft MSL

Top: Aerial view of damage caused by flooding. (Photo: Mission Team)

## ***Louisiana Wing Airborne Photographers: Eyes for Emergency Responders***

*by Lt. Col. Amos A. Plante, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. – On July 14, 2019, immediately following the passage of Tropical Storm Barry, aircrews of the Louisiana Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) took to the air. Their mission was to acquire and deliver aerial images of flood damages to state and federal emergency management agencies. Such images help disaster response managers make immediate assessments of flood impacts so that they can mitigate damage and direct recovery efforts in the most efficient manner.

Currently, CAP photo recipients are the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CAP's first aerial photography sorties were to acquire photos of key structures in the greater New Orleans area and of flood-prone areas along the Gulf Coast. These missions were successful, and numerous photos were delivered to GOHSEP and FEMA emergency response managers. CAP sorties will continue today and for as long as there is a need.

Incident Commander Col. Art Scarbrough is directing Post-Barry actions of Louisiana Wing. He is a native of Baton Rouge and has had many years of experience in leading his wing's emergency services activities. "In the case of Tropical Storm Barry, we are serving as our customer's eyes by providing high-resolution aerial and ground-based images to help identify points where lives and property are in greatest jeopardy," he said.

When flying photo missions, CAP aircrews consist of a pilot, an observer/copilot, and a photographer. Working as a team, they fly to a client location of interest designated by their emergency response agency. Upon arrival, they identify the specific targets of interest, photograph them from several angles, and then return to base where they process and deliver the photos to their client.

Louisiana Wing mobile ground teams can also provide damage assessments and photos of customer-designated targets. Their process is similar to that of the wing's aircrews.

Louisiana Wing's 500 volunteer members are dedicated to supporting the emergency services needs of local, state, and national agencies. Scarbrough said, "When tasked, Louisiana Wing can quickly launch its aircraft for both aerial photography and damage assessment, search and rescue, assistance to law enforcement agencies, and transportation of critical cargoes such as organic tissue." He also noted that the wing can roll out as many as 20 vehicles for transportation, ground-level search, and damage assessment missions. 🇺🇸





2019

**Left:** Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan talks to a Tulsa television reporter.

**Below Left:** Broken Arrow Composite Squadron cadets explain the benefits of Civil Air Patrol to visitors. (Photos: Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP)

**Below Right:** Capt. Keith Davis shares a moment with Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan.

## Broken Arrow Composite Squadron hosts Open House

by Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – On September 10, 2019, Broken Arrow Composite Squadron hosted an open house. Several members of the community stopped by to see what the squadron has to offer, and a Tulsa television station dropped in to interview squadron members.

“I have heard about Civil Air Patrol for a couple of years,” said Broken Arrow resident Dylan Collier. “I want to give back to my community, so I decided to visit and see how the Broken Arrow Squadron would fit into my schedule and areas of expertise.”

Maj. Tina Nazarian and



her staff had several Broken Arrow mission areas they wanted to highlight to the community. The first one was the Cadet Programs. The squadron also had an area set up to describe the history of Civil Air Patrol. And aerospace education was also promoted to visitors.

“I am proud of how hard our cadets worked on their drill and ceremonies techniques for the open house,” said Senior Flight Officer Kurt LeVan. “Broken Arrow cadets show dedication to the focus and overall success of the Civil Air Patrol cadet program.”

The evening ended with many visitors saying they would return to visit at the squadron’s next regular meeting. 🇺🇸







**Top:** Maj. Dave McClard (right) accepts command of Los Alamos Composite Squadron from New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters. Flag bearer: Cadet 2nd Lt. Silas Morgan. (Photos: Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP)

**Below:** Col. Peters recognizes Lt. Col. Pat Norvell with a certificate commemorating her 40 years of service to CAP.

## ***New Mexico Wing Squadron Gets New Commander***

*by Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – On July 30, 2019, at a ceremony held at the Los Alamos Airport Terminal, Maj. David McClard assumed command of Civil Air Patrol's Los Alamos Composite Squadron. Officiating at the ceremony was New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters. McClard has served CAP for 30 years, and had previously served as the squadron commander.

Relinquishing command was 1st Lt. Bill Wolfe, who had served as the squadron commander for the preceding four years. Wolfe thanked his staff officers for their support and received a Certificate of Recognition from Col. Peters for his service. Also recognized at the ceremony was Lt. Col. Pat Norvell, who received a certificate recognizing her 40 years of service with CAP.

The Los Alamos Composite Squadron is a unit of the New Mexico Wing of Civil Air Patrol, an organization founded on December 1, 1941, which provided a way for civilian pilots to support America's effort during WW II. CAP is credited with finding 170 German U-boats and reportedly sinking two of them (by dropping bombs by hand out the window of small aircraft). Soon after war's end, CAP became the civilian auxiliary of the newly formed United States Air Force.

While CAP members no longer search for enemy submarines, they do perform searches for missing aircraft, as well as lost hunters and hikers. CAP assists federal, state and local agencies in preparing for and responding to homeland security needs. CAP had the first general aviation aircraft flying over New York City after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Civil Air Patrol is also dedicated to Aerospace Education, providing opportunities for cadets ages 12 to 20 to learn about and explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – now widely known as STEM. 🇺🇸







**Top:** (L-R) Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Mark Ducote and Wing Commander Col. Pat Yglesias. (Photo: S.M. Ethan Bateman, CAP)

## ***Louisiana Wing Commander Visits Capitol City Composite Squadron***

*by S. M. Ethan Bateman, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. – On September 30, 2019, Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Pat Yglesias of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) paid a visit to CAP's Capitol City Composite Squadron in Baton Rouge, La.

An event some 25 years in the making, the visit of Col. Yglesias was a wellness check to congratulate the squadron on achieving 100 percent of its required hours for the region's Operation Rattlesnake exercise, and to answer questions put forth by squadron members. Capitol City is the squadron that Col. Yglesias called home when he first joined CAP, a quarter of a century ago.

The wing commander had high praise for the squadron, noting that its membership had increased by 12.1 percent from 2018, including a 10 percent increase in the squadron's senior members.

Col. Yglesias also took time to congratulate the Wing at large, mentioning that CAP's Louisiana Wing has seen considerable growth within recent months, to the point that the Wing is in the process of acquiring more aircraft to field, so as to accomplish its mission set.

In closing, Col. Yglesias offered words of encouragement to the squadron's cadets, expressing his hope that they will continue to serve their communities, state and nation with distinction, and possibly consider careers in the field of aerospace. 🇺🇸



**Top:** (L-R) New Mexico Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron Commander Maj. Jessica Makin, and Group 800 Commander Lt. Col. William R. Fitzpatrick, at the Group 800/LBJ Middle School Squadron Change of Command Ceremony. (Photo: 1st Lt. Edward Deal, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Dual Change of Command Ceremony***

*by Lt. Col Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On July 20, 2019, in a dual ceremony, Maj. Jessica Makin assumed command of the 811th LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, succeeding outgoing commander Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick, who in turn assumed command of Group 800, which oversees all School Enrichment Program squadrons in the Wing, to which the 811th belongs.

Fitzpatrick succeeds former Group 800 Commander Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy, who was appointed New Mexico Wing Vice Commander when Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters assumed command on June 23, 2019.

The ceremony, originally scheduled to be held outdoors at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial amphitheater, was quickly relocated inside to their air-conditioned Visitors Center, when outside temperatures topped 100 degrees.

Makin has been a CAP member since April 2014. She has held the positions of aerospace education officer at both the squadron and the group level, as well as standardization/evaluation officer for both Group 800 and New Mexico Wing. Additionally, she has served as squadron deputy commander, finance officer, testing officer and leadership officer. She is a certified balloon pilot, and is rated as an instructor pilot, orientation pilot, and check pilot for balloons.





By, Southwest Region, October, 2019

**Left:** Maj. Jessica Makin (right), assuming command of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, accepts the squadron flag from New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

**Below:** Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick accepts command of Group 800 from Col. Peters.

A relative newcomer to CAP, Makin thanked the members of the squadron, especially the cadets, for helping her become the officer that she is today. She also thanked Fitzpatrick for the hours of mentorship that allowed her to become a squadron commander.

Fitzpatrick, who has commanded the squadron since November 2013, looks forward to commanding the group, which consists of seven squadrons and accounts for approximately 26 percent of Wing membership.

He has been a CAP member since September 1999, when he joined as a cadet. He is a recipient of Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award, which carried with it promotion to cadet captain, and made him eligible for promotion to first lieutenant when he became a senior member at age 21. His positions at the squadron level have included leadership officer, operations officer and deputy commander for cadets. At the group level, he has served as emergency services officer and standardization/evaluation officer. He has also served as director of professional development for the Wing. He is a certified balloon pilot, and is rated as an orientation pilot, instructor pilot and check pilot.

Fitzpatrick recounted the squadron's accomplishments under his command, which include two Unit Citations, six Aerospace Education Excellence Awards, and four Quality Cadet Unit Awards. He said that he plans to accomplish great things for Group 800.

"We can move forward, we can grow, and we can prove that we will be a bastion of air power," Fitzpatrick said.

Col. Peters presided over the ceremony, thanking the outgoing commanders for their service and congratulating the incoming commanders on their new responsibilities.

"When I was Wing vice commander for the Northern Squadrons, I oversaw 10 squadrons, and I was never able to give them the time and attention they deserved," said Peters. At the Wing Commanders Call and Staff Meeting earlier in the day, she announced the creation of three Groups within the Wing – Northern, Central and Southern, in addition to Group 800 – and their respective commanders, in hopes that a smaller span of control will improve the number of squadrons each Group can effectively manage. The group commanders will report to Klassy, who in turn will report to Peters.

As outgoing Group 800 commander, Klassy leaves behind a legacy that will be hard to match. When he took command in August 2016, the group had 44 senior members and 106 cadets. He leaves the group with its present strength of 35 senior members and 181 cadets, which accounts for 49.5 percent of all cadets in New Mexico.

Klassy remarked, "I am proud to turn over the command of Group 800 to Lt. Col. Fitzpatrick, who I know will continue to grow Group 800." He added, "We need to make sure that we are training our replacements. You never know when life will get in the way, or someone is asked to step up to a new position." 🇺🇸





**Top:** Maj. (Dr.) Deborah Blattstein (back row, far right) was recognized as a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine during the Wilderness Medical Society Summer Conference in July 2019. (Photo: courtesy Wilderness Medical Society)

**Below:** Maj. (Dr.) Deborah Blattstein is a member of William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron 104 in Tucson, Arizona. (Photo: Courtesy of Abraham Blattstein)

## ***Arizona Wing Physician/Pilot Achieves Fellowship in Wilderness Medicine***

*by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing*

TUCSON, Ariz. – On July 25, 2019, CAP Maj. (Dr.) Deborah Blattstein, of the Tucson-based William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron 104, was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM). She was recognized during the Wilderness Medical Society Summer Conference in Crested Butte, Colorado, and is now one of 843 Fellows who have achieved this distinction.

The internationally recognized fellowship program offers a means to identify those who have fulfilled a demanding set of requirements validating their training and experience in wilderness medicine. Society members enroll in the academy and, by completing lessons from a pre-established wilderness medicine curriculum, as well as receiving credit for specific identifiable experience, accumulate credit toward becoming a Fellow. Any current member of the Wilderness Medical Society who successfully completes the requirements will have the distinction of being a registered member of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine and entitled to use the FAWM designation.

The program is designed to provide a combination of learning and demonstration of the advanced practice of wilderness medicine through experience, teaching, scholarly activity, and leadership. A broad understanding of wilderness medicine is required; therefore, candidates are expected to obtain required and elective credits in each of the broader subject areas.

Known for her service as a CAP mission pilot, airborne photographer, and squadron medical officer, Blattstein, a board-certified obstetrician / gynecologist, is also building her expertise working in the incident command post as an air operations branch director and chief for both the planning and operations sections.

The Wilderness Medical Society is the world's leading organization devoted to wilderness medical challenges. Pertinent to CAP, wilderness medicine topics include disaster medicine as well as search and rescue-related medical issues. 📷





**Right:** Santa Fe Composite Squadron's Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson, during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. (Photo: USAF 14th Flying Training Wing)

## **New Mexico Wing Cadet Aims High**

by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – For Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson of Santa Fe Composite Squadron, the summer of 2019 was a busy one. Aspiring to a career as an Air Force pilot, during June 21-29, 2019, he attended Civil Air Patrol's Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) Familiarization Course at the U.S. Air Force 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During July 15-29, 2019, he participated in National Blue Beret (NBB) at the week-long AirVenture airshow in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).



The SUPT Course is designed for Civil Air Patrol cadets. They get to experience what it is like to go through Air Force pilot training, with days full of academics, tours of air traffic control and weather facilities, and time in aircraft simulators. About 40 cadets took part in the program. Instructors were from the U.S. Air Force Reserve and CAP.

Academic study in SUPT includes aircraft systems, emergency procedures, operating limits, and aircraft performance and maneuvers. The cadets are exposed to realistic scenarios in T-6 Texan II simulators, one of which has a screen with simulated outside-the-cockpit environment, and another one with only a panel and instruments. They practice takeoffs and landings, emergencies, and aerobatic maneuvers such as the split-S and Cuban 8. Cadets must take two exams daily on what they have learned.

The program also covers how different personalities may be best suited to different types of aircraft, for example, the fighter pilot prefers to go solo, whereas a large aircraft has more of a community atmosphere. Nelson decided that the latter is probably a good fit for him.

"SUPT differed from other CAP programs – more academic and more freedom," he said, "There were morning and evening formations, but in the evenings you were left to yourself. Most of us studied for the next day's tests."

At National Blue Beret, Nelson was again immersed in aviation. Over 200 CAP cadets converged on Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh to support the world's biggest airshow. They were organized in flights of ten cadets each, plus a flight leader and senior member supervisor. After five days of training, they supported the event in four two-hour shifts covering the north, south, and west flight lines, the warbird and ultralight areas, and CAP headquarters, as well as emergency services, aircraft tracking functions, and coordinating cadet support.

Cadets stayed in barracks at CAP headquarters on the airport, enjoying the camaraderie that comes with accomplishing a common objective. "At first, we addressed each other formally by last name," said Nelson, "By the end, we were joking and had formed a real bond."

The highlight of Nelson's AirVenture experience was meeting veterans returning from a visit to Washington D.C. He wants to go back, and looks forward to showing his squadron's cadets the ropes. "I would love to go again and experience the whole event. The sound of aircraft engines in the morning was great." 🍷



**Top:** (L-R) Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford, Cadet Col. Bethany Wilson, and Cadet Lt. Col. Jackie Harsha during Wilson's tenure as cadet commander of the 2019 Oklahoma-Arkansas Encampment. (Photo: Cadet Master Sgt. Shelby Williams, CAP)

## ***Oklahoma Wing Cadets Earn Civil Air Patrol Academic Scholarships***

*by 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

TULSA, Okla. – Civil Air Patrol's 2019 scholarship finalists have received 91 awards, collectively worth \$154,570. Yearly, CAP provides financial assistance to select deserving cadets through academic and flight scholarships based on merit or need. The scholarship portfolio is announced each fall, and finalists are named the following spring and summer.

"For the first time, we can offer academic scholarships equal to the number of our highly recommended applicants," said Wendy Hamilton of CAP's cadet program, who said 62 academic scholarships were awarded – all to applicants with a 3.80 or higher grade-point average and an SAT score of 1311 and/or an ACT score of 28 or above. "This puts our scholarship applicants on an academic par with the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2022," she said.

The most recent recipients include three Oklahoma Wing cadets: Cadets Col. Bethany Wilson and Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford of Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, and Cadet Lt. Col. Jacquelyn Harsha of Edmond Composite Squadron, all three are working on their private pilot's licenses.

Wilson is a freshman at Tulsa University, majoring in mechanical engineering. "Cadets who are interested in drawing the most out of the program, must put in effort," said Wilson. "The achievement and development you can get out of this program is solely dependent on the amount of heart you put into your actions. If you strive to perform with excellence, in return, you will reap excellent skills and useful knowledge."

Harsha is a freshman at Oklahoma State University, double majoring in geospatial science information and Spanish. She also joined the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at OSU. "Go to every National Cadet Special Activity you can," Harsha said. "You can never go to too many. I went to seven and learned something valuable at every one. Also apply for every scholarship and position you can, even if you don't think you are good enough. You may be the best candidate without even knowing it. The worst that can happen is to be turned down and you can apply again later, but the next time at least you know what you can improve on."

Lunsford is a freshman at Tulsa Community College, majoring in mechanical engineering. She has applied for admission to the United States Air Force Academy, planning to double major in mechanical and aerospace engineering. "Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone," Lunsford said. "Find something you are passionate about and do it. If you enjoy flying, go fly. If you love drill and ceremonies, try color guard. If you like teaching, then teach. CAP has a component for everyone. There are many special activities that will challenge you and help you grow. Find what you love, then do it as much as possible." 🇺🇸





**Top:** Cadet 1st Lt. Nadine Saliba speaks during a class session at Cadet Officer School. (Photos: Cadet Officer School PA)

## ***Arizona Wing Cadets Share Experiences at Cadet Officer School***

*by Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. – The handbook for attending cadets begins: *Welcome! Congratulations on your acceptance to the Civil Air Patrol's most prestigious Cadet leadership training, Cadet Officer School (COS).* Two cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 completed the 51st annual COS class, held during June 25-July 7, 2019, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, home of Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters.

Cadet 1st Lts. Nadine Saliba and Jackson Schadt joined cadets from around the nation in a rigorous, academically challenging leadership course patterned after the U.S. Air Force Squadron Officer School. According to a CAP brochure, the program provides an in-depth academic and practical study of leadership and the intricacies of this evolving skill set.

What drives a cadet to compete for this challenging endeavor? "From the start, I had heard only positive things about Cadet Officer School," Saliba said. "I knew that I would grow significantly as an individual which would, in turn, make me a better leader and representative of CAP."

"It was interested in further developing my leadership skills and knowledge as well as learning from other cadets from around the nation and world," Schadt adds.

Both cadets met the qualifications for enrollment by completing encampment, achieving the grade of Cadet 2nd Lt., and submitting a written essay. Cadets were also ranked according to the number of cadet activities in which they participated.

"The application process was competitive. Almost every cadet officer in Civil Air Patrol who hasn't gone to COS will want to attend," Saliba said.

"Fortunately, I had a strong support system from my squadron and was able to make it through the application process," agreed Schadt. "The application process for COS is very competitive, because only 120 cadets can attend," Schadt pointed out.



**Above:** Cadet 1st Lt. Jackson Schadt receives his graduation certificate from Lt. Col. Olen Freeman, USAF Director of Cadet Officer School (left), and Col. Joe Winter, CAP Director of the school.

The 11-day course draws on a range of lecturers and guest speakers, including instructors and other professionals who train Air Force officers at the Air University at Maxwell. Saliba said that she could not say much about the classes because they are meant to be classified. “However, strategic planning is just one of the many exciting courses you will study,” she says. “Everything from leadership to aerospace is covered and taught by the most qualified teachers. There is a great blend of visual and hands-on learning that will inspire you to apply everything to your squadron.”

“During COS, we would have three or four lectures with seminars with our flight instructors holding further practical instruction afterward,” Schadt added. “Our lectures were about subjects like leadership, military history and aerospace. Guest speakers would add real-life experiences and perspective to what we learned in the lectures. Activities we did with our flights were mainly team-building exercises that involved communication and planning,” Schadt said.

Part of the cadet training was learning to lead other leaders. “A major lesson I learned about leading others is decentralized versus centralized leadership,” Saliba said. “I recognized there were different styles of leadership, but decentralized and centralized leadership is on a personal and operational level. Becoming aware of this lesson helped me to think critically and lead with better strategy.”

Schadt also said, “What I learned about leading other leaders was that you shouldn’t micromanage everything and that you should get to know your other leaders and followers to improve the team.”

The goal of COS is to contribute to cadet officers’ growth as mature leaders and responsible citizens. It is an introduction to strategic perspectives in leadership, consistent with CAP Cadet Programs’ leadership education goals for Phase IV of the program.

Both Arizona Wing cadets said they gained much from their experience. “I had hoped to build my knowledge of leadership and potentially reshape my opinions on the subject,” Saliba said. “I gained that and so much more. Through COS, I built connections and made a lot of friendships on an international level.” Saliba was named the honor cadet/distinguished graduate for her flight.

“What I intended to gain from the program was more knowledge and experience that I can take back to my squadron and use in the future,” Schadt said. “My goal for the future is to become an officer in either the Navy or the Air Force,” he added. 🍷





**Left:** The faceplate of the ELT that was found and deactivated in Edgewood

## ***ELT Signal Traced to New Mexico Residential Garage***

*by New Mexico Wing Public Affairs*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On July 2, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., Civil Air Patrol's New Mexico Wing was notified of an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) signal by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), which had received reports of the same signal from various air traffic controllers.

The AFRCC opened a mission at 11:45 a.m., and New Mexico Wing generated five sorties, two of which flew aerial direction-finding operations, with another three on standby, or for relocation as needed.

At about 3:05 p.m., one of the aircraft reported a strong signal over the east end of Sandia Air Park, near Edgewood. Members of Albuquerque Senior Squadron II located a resident of Edgewood, who was a certified flight instructor and former CAP member, who confirmed that he was also receiving a signal from the east end of the air park, also confirmed by the second aircraft launched.

At 4:56 p.m., the incident commander notified the New Mexico Search and Rescue (NMSAR) who, along with CAP, dispatched a total of four ground teams to the air park. Inclement weather had forced all air operations to cease, and all aircraft were ordered to return to base. Six NMSAR members and four CAP members, including one cadet, set up an incident command post at the west end of the air park at about 6:30 p.m.

NMSAR formed two direction-finding teams, and CAP formed two teams, all working their way toward the east end of the air park. The first ground signal was located halfway into a residential estate on the eastern half of the air park. Three ground teams chased the signal along residential roads, while the fourth team plotted locations and relayed information to the other three teams.

By 7:05 p.m., all four teams had converged upon the estate, where the ELT was located inside a hangar-garage, and silenced at 7:15 p.m. The mission was officially closed at 7:45 p.m. ■



**Top:** (L-R) Arkansas Representative Steven Womack, Maj. Pat Schmidt holding her Gill Robb Wilson Award Certificate, and 83rd Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Phil Robertson, (Photos: 1st Lt. Tiara Sweeney, CAP, Oklahoma Wing)

## ***Arkansas Wing Member Achieves Highest Professional Development Level***

*by 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP, Arkansas Wing*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. – On August. 5, 2019, during the 3rd annual “Fun at the Fort” event, Maj. Pat Schmidt was presented the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Gill Robb Wilson Award. Making the presentation was Arkansas Congressman Steven Womack, who represents the 3rd congressional district of Arkansas, that includes Fort Smith. In a speech delivered to those in attendance, Schmidt advised cadets, “Never stop learning leadership.” She also said that everyone, but particularly cadets, should aspire, “To be of service to your city, state and nation.”

After presenting the Wilson Award to Schmidt, Congressman Womack spoke in terms that echoed Schmidt’s comments. He touched upon leadership and character, leading into the discussion with, “The hardest thing about leadership is not knowing if anyone will follow you.” He encouraged cadets to stay in CAP, as he sees it as, “a worthwhile organization,” that presents many opportunities to learn about and practice leadership.

In closing, Womack encouraged all to, “Make good choices, keep your good health, and check your heart at night.” He suggested that cadets ask themselves, “What did I do today that made a contribution to the good of my country?” Congressman Womack asked cadets to strive to be genuine, saying, “Be you, whatever that may be.” He also said, “You were put on this Earth for a purpose. It is your job to find your purpose.”





**Above:** After presenting the award to Schmidt, Congressman Womack spoke to Civil Air Patrol Cadets that attended Fun at the Fort at Fort Chaffee.

Schmidt, who prefers to go by Pat, has worked with and mentored cadets in the Arkansas Wing and Southwest Region since first joining CAP in 2011, after learning about the organization at an air show hosted at the Fort Smith, Arkansas airport. Although she resides in Ft. Smith, she says that she is “a proud native Texan.”

Schmidt is a U.S. Parks Service Ranger at the Ft. Smith National Historic Site. The park preserves the history of the beginning of Fort Smith in 1817 to end of its operations in 1896. Through her training, she has shared her love of learning and excelling as a person to all CAP cadets of the 83rd Composite Squadron, in Fort Smith.

Schmidt is currently the squadron’s deputy commander for cadets and a character development instructor. She has also been an active participant at Arkansas and Oklahoma encampments. Schmidt has been a Cadet Programs advocate in Arkansas Wing, staffing the 83rd’s summer’s end camp, Fun at the Fort, an activity that she commanded in 2018. Earlier this year, she was the lead escort for the Arkansas Wing’s team participating in the National Cadet Competition in which the wing cadets earned first place in the inaugural sUAS competition.

Besides being an active role model for cadets, Schmidt is an aircrew member qualified as mission scanner, observer, and aerial photographer. She recently participated in missions in support of disaster relief operations during the historic flooding of the Arkansas River.

Even though Schmidt has earned the Gill Robb Wilson Award, CAP’s highest professional development achievement, she says that she intends to keep on studying “the Arts and Sciences of Leadership.” Also, she wants to study other CAP specialty tracks to expand her expertise and effectiveness as a CAP member. 🍷





**Top:** As squadron members and guests watched, Governing Board President Anna Ogle (left) and Superintendent Ruby James of the Eloy Elementary School District cut the ribbon to officially open the EESD Aerospace Center. (Photos: Capt. Kevin Rattey, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Squadron Hosts Open House***

*by Capt. Kevin Rattey, CAP, Arizona Wing*

ELOY, Ariz. – On August 29, 2019, the Eloy Composite Squadron hosted an open house at its recently updated facility. After months of work, the Eloy Elementary School District officially opened its Aerospace Center. The Eloy Squadron meets at the E.E.S.D. Aerospace Center, which offers local students a variety of training opportunities related to the aerospace field.

The center's top attraction is the Flight and Air Traffic Control Simulation Lab. Several simulators are linked on a local network and allow for interaction between each simulator as well as from instructor stations. Networking allows for formation flights, aerial combat, and much more.





All simulators and instructor stations use headsets for communication, allowing for two-person conversations or for everyone to be on the same channel.

**Left:** CAP Capt. Klara Olcott, who was a guest at the ribbon-cutting event, had a chance to try the virtual reality goggles while flying a simulator.

**Below:** The Aerospace Center includes multiple, networked flight simulators that can interact with instructors or each other.

Instructor stations empower the instructor to change the weather, fail one or more flight instruments, change parameters, and monitor the flight via mapping and console displays. The instructor can monitor the student's progress throughout the flight.

A recent addition has been virtual reality (VR) goggles, which bring a new dimension to the flight simulator experience. The center now has two VR stations, with a third one coming this Fall.

In addition to the flight simulators, the center offers training in remote-control (RC) airplane flying, drone flying, and rocketry. The use of several different aircraft and drones, in addition to RC simulation, allows for a variety of flying experiences.

Subject to availability, the center is also open to any squadron in Arizona Wing that may wish to use the facilities for an aerospace activity, including the simulators. In the new fiscal year, several events and courses will be offered at the center, including FAA Part 107 remote pilot ground school, FAA Private Pilot Ground School and, in 2020, an Aerial Combat Competition, which will be open to all squadrons in the Wing.

Future plans call for additional equipment upgrades to offer even more realistic simulation and more aerospace education activities. 🇺🇸





**Top:** The Wing's Blanik L-23 glider, used for orientation flights, stands on static display in Spirit Squadron's parking lot. (Photo: 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP)

## ***Spirit Squadron Hosts Second Successful New Mexico Wing Open House***

*by 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On Aug. 29, 2019, Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron hosted the Second Annual New Mexico Wing Information Extravaganza (a New Mexico Wing Open House), at the squadron's meeting place, the Heights First Church of the Nazarene in Albuquerque.

Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron, known as "Spirit Squadron," has hosted a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) informational open house each year for the past five years, to the point that this event has become one of the squadron's annual traditions. Since the Open House is open to the public, visitors gather to see what the squadron looks like, how the cadets interact and learn leadership skills on a weekly basis, and how the squadron represents the Civil Air Patrol and Air Force traditions.

From 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Spirit Squadron officers, senior members and cadets staffed information booths covering the various programs offered by CAP: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and the Cadet Program. In the parking lot, there were a static display of a Blanik L-23 Czechoslovakian-made sailplane, the basket from the Wing's hot-air balloon Integrity,



## The Fly-By, South

and the Wing's Mobile Operations Center (MOC) to show visitors how CAP personnel communicate in the field.

**Right:** (L-R) Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox administers the Cadet Oath to Cadet Airman Basic Nickolas Mora, the squadron's newest cadet. (Photos this page: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

**Below:** Northern Group Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Selph (left) and his wife Shawna serve hot dogs to visitors.



The purpose of an Open House is to bring more and better members into the Civil Air Patrol, an organization considered by its members to be the hidden gem of leadership programs for youth. It is something visible and tangible that shows the Civil Air Patrol to visitors. Cadets ages 12 to 20, and adult senior members age 18 and older, learn to serve their community, state and nation. Cadets receive five free instructional powered flights, five free instructional balloon flights and five free instructional glider flights – all with the intent to create an interest not only in the aerospace industry, but to produce more pilots for the aviation industry as a whole. For youths interested in a military career, CAP prepares cadets to enter the United States service academies.

The evening agenda included a variety of presentations and displays by Spirit Squadron cadets and senior members: a recruitment table manned by Spirit Squadron Cadet Sponsor Members Randal Roth and Michael Mamawal; a display of CAP coins and squadron memorabilia presented by Thunderbird Composite Squadron (that functions on Kirtland Air Force Base); refreshments, provided by Spirit Squadron parents and organized by Capt. Karen Barela; and hot dogs provided by the former New Mexico Wing Deputy Commander for Cadets Lt. Col. Andrew Selph and his wife Shawna.

Seven New Mexico squadrons (including Spirit Squadron) participated in the event, with the most distant being the Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron. Eagle Cadet Squadron supported the MOC, and LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron supported the Integrity basket and School Enrichment Program displays. West Mesa Composite Squadron provided added protection for the glider to prevent possible damage. Additional units represented were Santa Fe Composite Squadron and Route 66 Composite Squadron.

Newly appointed New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, and Vice Commander



Lt. Col. Dean Klassy made a special appearance at the Extravaganza. Also, three of the four newly appointed group commanders were present: Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick, and Lt. Col. Michael Eckert. The evening included a swearing in of Cadet Airman Basic Nickolas Mora, the Spirit Squadron's newest member. While Spirit Squadron hosted the event, credit goes to all the New Mexico Wing members who made the event a success. 🇺🇸



**Top:** (L-R) Maj. Deborah Blattstein and Capt. Mike Griffith served as the instructors for the Airborne Photographer class offered on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Robert Weber, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Airborne Photographers Train at University of Arizona***

*by 2nd Lt. Robert Weber, CAP, Arizona Wing*

TUCSON, Ariz. – On June 30, 2019, 15 Arizona Wing senior members from three southern sector squadrons came together at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where they took the first step to qualify or requalify as airborne photographers.

Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Ardis Wait of the William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron 104, Tucson, hosted the first day of the three-day course, and Maj. Deborah Blattstein, MD, PhD, also from Squadron 104, was the primary instructor. Capt. Mike Griffith from Davis Monthan Composite Squadron 334 hosted the course, which was offered on the University of Arizona campus, where he also serves as the director of instructional and learning technology in the College of Education.

The 15 senior members in attendance came from William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron 104 and Davis Monthan Composite Squadron 334 in Tucson, and Cochise Composite Squadron 107 in Sierra Vista.

During this first day of instruction, Blattstein covered basic digital camera features and the operational capabilities of the Nikon D-90 camera, exposure and settings, composition, and keeping the camera and accessories mission-ready. The classroom environment was ideal, with computer screens and video cameras throughout the classroom to display lecture material and close-up video of the Nikon D-90 camera.

Griffith explained that he hopes to provide this remote learning technology to squadrons throughout Arizona Wing via the university's telepresence capabilities. "With this technology, we can reach out and touch a lot of CAP members," Griffith said.

Future lecture-based classes will be made available to those who cannot be physically present in the classroom. According to Griffith, "Thanks to an Internet link, students will be able to see, hear, and participate with the class as if they were present in the classroom." The second and third days of the training were held at the University of Arizona on July 13 and 14. 📺





**Top:** Maj. Tina Nazarian (then a 1st Lt.) is shown with cadets Kurt LeVan and Spencer Keck and Maj. Marco Criscione at a CAP mission site near Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The team was providing support to local officials for a downed aircraft.  
(Photos: Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP)

## ***Oklahoma Wing Squadron Commander is Promoted***

*by Capt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – September 2019 is the eighth anniversary in Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for Broken Arrow Composite Squadron Commander Tina Nazarian. She is also celebrating her promotion to Major last July 25, 2019.

Nazarian started her CAP career with the California Wing in the Big Bear Composite Squadron, where her first duties were in logistics and the aerospace education officer. She also was deputy commander for cadets and seniors. She was a member of the California squadron for two years before moving to Oklahoma.

“I was getting ready to take command of Big Bear Composite Squadron, when the move to Oklahoma occurred,” Nazarian said.

One of Nazarian’s favorite memories of her CAP experience in California is a town-wide Halloween event. Her squadron’s duty was to help find “lost parents.”

“My group found a little boy who couldn’t find his family,” Nazarian said. “The boy grabbed onto one of my cadet Staff Sgts. and wouldn’t let go. The cadet was only 13, but that night he was the hero. Watching the cadet and the boy bond was incredible.”

Nazarian joined the Broken Arrow Composite Squadron in September 2013. She has held many positions within the squadron such as administration officer, professional development officer, and testing officer before becoming squadron commander in May 2017.

"My most memorable Oklahoma CAP event is my first Tinker Air Force Base Airshow," she said. "My element was helping by one of the gates and an Air Force Senior Master Sgt. yelled 'hey lieutenant, need your help'. He was calling me and wanted my group to help cover his section while they took a lunch break. I served as active duty Navy, so having experienced the officer side of the role, I found this unusual."

"I have two people who have been influential in my Civil Air Patrol career," Nazarian said. "Lt. Col. Bruce Black recruited me in California and guided me along my path. He was an awesome man who was a parajumper in the Air Force and worked sound for the Johnny Carson show."

"In Oklahoma, Lt. Col. Eugene Johnson taught me how to lead as an officer," she continued. "Broken Arrow hosted a Squadron Leadership School/Corporate Learning Course weekend and Col. Johnson asked me to be assistant director. This was an incredible learning experience."

Nazarian says her most memorable CAP experience was attending Southwest Region Staff College. "The bonding, friendships and experience were wonderful," she says. "I am still in contact with my classmates."

Nazarian says that she loves working with cadets.

"Watching the cadets grow is rewarding and, in a way, humbling," she said. "I mentored several cadets that have gone on to leadership roles using methods I used with them. I also have an awesome staff right now. We get together for dinner three or four times a year and just socialize. No ranks. No shop talk beyond the bare necessities."

Nazarian says her next goal after squadron commander is to move into the group commander or deputy commander role.

"I still have a long future ahead in CAP," Nazarian said. "I can see moving into a wing or region position later in my career. I really don't have an ultimate goal. I just want to keep growing and learning and passing that knowledge on to others."

Tulsa's new Jenks Flight is part of Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, and therefore reports to Nazarian. 🇺🇸

**Below:** Maj. Tina Nazarian, CAP, at an Oklahoma Fly In with fellow CAP members Capt. Keith Davis and 2nd Lt. Cole Sexton. The senior members were supervising cadets on marshalling aircraft.







**Top:** (L-R) Lt. Col. Marvin Owen, Baton Rouge Airport Tower Supervisor Lenny Smith, Cadet Airman. Gabriel James Carter, Cadet Sr. Airman Jesse Fox Garon, Maj. Ken Brummett, Cadet Airman Isahk David Lachney, 2nd Lt. Michael Scott, Cadet Airman First Class James Tanner, and S.M. Devin Brooks. (Photo: Courtesy Mr. Mike Carter)

## ***Louisiana Wing Squadron Visits Baton Rouge Airport Tower***

*by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. – On August 24, 2019, members of the Ascension Parish Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), which operates at Louisiana Regional Airport at Gonzales, visited the tower at Baton Rouge Airport.

Aerospace Education is a major function of Civil Air Patrol, involving training about all aspects of general aviation. Since CAP normally flies Cessna aircraft for its operations, knowledge of all aspects of aviation management is necessary for safe operation. A part of every flight from a controlled airport involves communication with ground control and the tower. This visit was intended to show squadron members how airport and en route management of aircraft is actually performed.

The Baton Rouge airport tower has two distinct work areas. Personnel on the lower level receive information from aircraft, specifically their call sign, aircraft type and destination. This information is entered into the Air Traffic Control (ATC) computer to allow tracking of that aircraft. Squadron members visited with personnel performing this duty, in order to see how it is actually done.

There are several different phases of flight, beginning with a preflight of the aircraft, taxi instructions from ground control, takeoff clearance, en route travel, approach to destination, and landing. All these flight phases need to be controlled. At many smaller airports where there is no tower, these functions are left up to the pilot. A “See and be seen” concept is in effect for those types of airports.

After visiting on the first floor and learning about how this information is entered into the air traffic control system, squadron members went upstairs to the tower, where tower personnel can actually see the aircraft they are controlling. When pilots contact ground control for taxi instructions, they speak with a person in the upper portion of the tower. From there, they talk to the tower controller who releases the aircraft for takeoff. After takeoff, they are then released to a departure controller, who can follow their aircraft as they proceed on their route. As part of routine flying, many CAP members have spoken with tower personnel for years. This experience gave them the opportunity to put a name and face to a voice. 🍷





**Top:** New Mexico Wing commander Col. Annette Peters (right) administers the Oath of Promotion to Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron commander Maj. Mary A. Fox. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

### ***Promotion, Awards Round Out New Mexico Wing Squadron Meeting***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – A promotion, several awards, and a special appearance by New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters rounded out a special meeting of the Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron on Aug. 1, 2019.

Peters presided over the promotion of squadron commander Mary A. Fox to the grade of major. Fox has been a member of Civil Air Patrol and the squadron since March 2011. She originally joined as a Cadet Sponsor Member, when her daughter Juana joined the squadron in June 2010. She transitioned into active senior membership in September 2012, and has held the positions of aerospace education officer, leadership officer, professional development officer and deputy commander for seniors. She has commanded the Spirit Squadron since March 2016.

Additionally, the squadron was recognized for both individual and group achievements. Fox received Civil Air Patrol’s Achievement Award for outstanding duty performance during the Wing’s Operations Evaluation (OPSEVAL) by the U.S. Air Force on June 22, 2019, for which the Wing achieved a rating of Effective – the highest rating a wing can receive for an OPSEVAL.





**Above:** (L-R) Maj. Fox and Col. Peters display the squadron's Squadron of Merit Award for 2019.

Thirteen squadron members were recognized for attending the 2019 New Mexico Wing Summer Encampment in Santa Fe, as well as five cadets who attended the Wing's annual Glider Academy. Cadets were also recognized for completing the Redstone stage of CAP's Model Rocketry program.

Peters presented Fox with the Civil Air Patrol's Squadron of Merit Award, which is awarded each year to the outstanding squadron in each Wing. Previously, the squadron had been named Squadron of Merit for 2012 and 2013, and in 2013 received the additional honor of being named Civil Air Patrol's Squadron of Distinction, thereby being recognized as the best squadron in the nation, among more than 1,500 squadrons nationwide.

The streamer was affixed to the squadron organizational flag, but the honors did not stop there. Peters also presented the squadron with Civil Air Patrol's Unit Citation Award, citing the squadron's many accomplishments, including its participation in Wreaths Across America, summer encampments, search and rescue exercises and the squadron's semi-annual fundraising drives.

After affixing both the blue Squadron of Merit and the red Unit Citation streamers to the squadron flag, Peters quipped, "Save room for the green streamer," referring to Civil Air Patrol's Quality Cadet Unit Award, which recognizes those squadrons that complete six out of 11 criteria for national recognition. This year will be the tenth consecutive year that Spirit Squadron has received the Quality Cadet Unit Award.

Peters praised the squadron for all its hard work, and Fox agreed with her. "You are all outstanding," she said. 🍷



**Top:** (L-R Cadet Airman Gabriel Carter and Deputy Commander for Cadets 2nd Lt Janelle Townsend, CAP (Photos: Capt. Ken Best, CAP)

**Right:** Cadet Airman Christian Gallo and Deputy Commander for Cadets 2nd Lt Janelle Townsend.

## ***Louisiana Wing Cadets are Promoted***

*by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. – On August 26, 2019, the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol promoted three cadets to their current rank. The Composite Squadron has both cadet and senior members.

The Ascension Parish Composite Squadron operates out of the Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales, La.

Shown here are cadets Carter and Gallo receiving their promotion from Deputy Commander for Cadets 2nd Lt. Janelle Townsend. No photo of Cadet Black was available. 📷





## **Guest Editorial**

### **An Overdue Thank You**

*by Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

SANTA FE, N.M. – During July 15-29, 2019, I was among the Civil Air Patrol cadets providing support for the AirVenture airshow at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and there I had the privilege of being part of the Honor Guard for an honor flight of Vietnam veterans. I stood with a large group of cadets on either side of the tarmac, as the veterans deplaned and finally got the welcome they deserved, after so many years.

When these American service members had come home from Vietnam, they had not been welcomed home, but insulted, spat upon, and met at the airports by protests and shows of hate. There had been no greetings of “welcome home” or “thank you for your service.”

This time, over a hundred of these veterans returned after a day spent in Washington, D.C., visiting memorials and museums. Now they were greeted by hundreds, if not thousands, of cheering people. Families welcomed home the grandfathers, fathers, uncles, brothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers. Alongside the families stood groups of people who may not personally know any Vietnam vets, but still came to show their support. And standing on either side of the walkway that the veterans went down after coming off the plane, stood close to 100 Civil Air Patrol cadets, standing at attention, holding back the crowds and rendering a salute to every veteran that passed by.

As I stood there, watching each veteran pass me, I could see the emotion on each face and hear and see their families and friends supporting them. Small children stood right behind me, welcoming each veteran home with words and signs. Families would rush forward and hug their relative that had served, grandchildren would sit on their parents’ shoulders and wave signs, and spouses would meet on the tarmac and hug each other.

For me, the best part was when a veteran, whom I had never met, stopped walking and turned toward me. He looked me in the eye and saluted me, and I could see the gratitude in his eyes.

This was one the most amazing experiences I have ever had, and I will never forget it. 🇺🇸



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**Left:** Vietnam veterans receive thanks for their service from CAP cadets at the National Blue Beret activity. (Photo: CAP NHQ)

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**Right:** Astronaut Buzz Aldrin steps off the lunar module *Eagle* on July 20, 1969. (Photo: NASA)

## Guest Editorial

### ***The Moon Landing: 50 Years Later***

by Lt. Col Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On July 20, 1969, I was 12 years old. My brother Jeff and I were spending the summer in Hawaii, where our father had been working as a scuba instructor since January 1968. We were playing on the dock at the Ala Wai Harbor, where Dad's houseboat was moored, when he stuck his head out and called us inside.

"Jeff! Jay! Come in here!" he said.

We boarded the houseboat, and our 13-inch, portable black-and-white television set was tuned to KGMB-TV Channel 9, the local CBS affiliate, which was covering the landing of Apollo 11 on the Moon. The lunar module *Eagle* had already landed, and Neil Armstrong was about to disembark and become the first man to step on the Moon. Walter Cronkite was providing coverage from the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The images from the lunar module were grainy and hard to make out, but I could see someone descending a ladder, and then moments later we heard the words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The screen lit up with the caption, ARMSTRONG ON THE MOON. The camera cut to Cronkite, wiping tears of joy from his eyes. And from that moment on, we lived in a world where man had walked on the Moon.

Did the Moon landing have a direct bearing on my decision to join CAP? No, but it was certainly one of the catalysts.

In December 1970, Jeff and I had moved to Hawaii to live with Dad and to go to school there. Dad was renting an apartment in the Waialae-Kahala district, and our roommate, USAF Maj. James L. Haynes, was a member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, and made periodic trips to Vietnam to dispose of unexploded bombs.

Jim was the best at everything he did – black belts in karate and judo, expert marksman and skeet shooter – and he also kept an inert hand grenade on his desk as a paperweight. He was just the kind of person I wanted to model myself after. In October 1971, when I found out about Civil Air Patrol, I joined as a cadet at the age of 14, and I am still a member.

Since that fateful day in 1969, I have learned two things: first, that the space race was a metaphor for the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, and that the Moon landing scored a moral, if not a historical victory for America; and second, that the technology used to land the first man on the Moon pales in comparison to what we possess today. The computer used by NASA to land a man on the Moon had 64 kilobytes of memory, and took up an entire room. By contrast, today's 5G Smartphone has almost a million times more memory, and it fits in one's pocket or purse.

Astronaut Harrison Schmitt, one of the last men on the Moon, looks forward to Americans returning there, in preparation for manned space flights to Mars. At the 2017 New Mexico Wing Conference in Socorro, where he was guest speaker, he echoed the words of NASA pioneer Wehrner von Braun, who said, "I have learned to use the word 'impossible' with great caution." 🍷





## On Writing

### ***How Does One Write a CAP Article for Publication?***

#### **Before the Event**

*Gather your kit:*

1. Writing paper, Pen or pencil, Laptop if you'll have a place to use it. Make sure the battery is fully charged for the event.
2. Digital camera (practice to make sure you know how to take good photos with it). Make sure your camera's battery has a full charge for the event. Take a fully-charged spare camera battery along. Associated Press Stylebook (unless you know it already).

*Get basic information:*

1. What is scheduled to happen (this is your article's title).
2. Where will it take place (this will your article's dateline).
3. What date(s) will be the duration.
4. Who will be the participants.
5. What is planned for the event.
6. If it matters, why it is taking place.

#### **During the event**

*Gather your material:*

1. Take abundant notes of what happens.
2. Get appropriate photos as you go. Get the name, grade and unit of assignment of all who appear on each photo. Fully describe each photo in writing.
3. Ask questions of the participants. You will use their answers as quotes (always assigned to the speaker) to give human color to your article.

*Take photos:*


1. Most good digital cameras are single-lens-reflex (SLR), which will help you. If you know how to use it, your photos will probably be in focus and have fine detail.
2. Non-SLR cameras have a combination of optical zoom and digital zoom. If the latter is the case, when you are focusing the camera, you'll probably see a vertical bar on the side with a T at the top, a little horizontal marker in the middle, and a W at the bottom (or vice-versa). On this bar, you'll see either a light or marker that moves somewhere along it. If the marker is anywhere between the W and the middle marker, you're using optical zoom. But if it is between the middle marker and the T, you'll be using digital zoom. NEVER use digital zoom, as you'll have the illusion of a good photo but the reality will tell you otherwise once you've downloaded it (and it will be too late to retake it). So, if you are not using a SLR camera, stay out of digital zoom, that will give you blurred images with extremely poor resolution.  
**Note:** Using your phone camera is an option, provided you use full resolution.
3. In every case, submit your original photo, unretouched and uncropped. Let the editor do whatever cropping and photo manipulation are needed.
4. At all times, action photos are better than "trophy shots." An example of the latter is a group of people, all looking at the camera.
5. Make sure subjects are not in the "fig leaf position" (hands crossed in front of them below the waist). Just pose them: at ease, parade rest, or standing with arms down to either side of the body. People will let you pose them because they want to look good.
6. If you are taking an outdoor photo, some members may be wearing dark glasses. If you cannot see the eyes through the dark lenses, have them take off their glasses until you've taken the shot. People wearing glasses with very dark lenses look like they are trying to hide something.
7. On the flightline, do not photograph CAP members in uniform wearing a head cover.
8. The best kind of photo is one that shows people doing something interesting.
9. It is OK to take a "trophy photo" of someone who is receiving an award.

10. **Most important of all:** The camera needs to be close to the subject, and you need to be with the camera so you can push the button, therefore walk up to the subject and take a good photo; no one will object to your doing this.
11. Sometimes you miss the shot. If you can, ask the subjects to repeat the action so you can take a better shot (since most people want to look good in photos, they'll do it). If this is not possible, re-enacting it after the function is over is an option.

#### **After the event**

1. Write the article while the event is fresh in your mind.
2. Write it in third person singular, express no opinion, and keep your verbs in synch.
3. For opinion, use the quotes from credible participants that you got during the event.
4. Start the article with the dateline (in ALL CAPS), followed by the date of the event, then name the event. For example, "PARIS, Texas – On January 5, 2020, Oklahoma Wing taught its winter Squadron Leadership School." Some cities do not take the state; in SWR these are: DALLAS, HOUSTON, NEW ORLEANS, OKLAHOMA CITY, PHOENIX, and SAN ANTONIO.
5. In AP Style, the state abbreviations for SWR are: Ariz., Ark., La., N.M., Okla., and Texas. (In AP Style, two-syllable states are not abbreviated. Do not use AZ, AR, LA, NM, OK, or TX – these are not state names but postal codes.)
6. In AP Style, the months from March through July are written out in full; the others are Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. But in the body of the story, months are always spelled out.
7. In AP Style, days are not written as ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on) just write it as a cardinal number (1, 2, 3, 4, and so on).
8. In AP Style, "January 1, 2020," is a proper date (notice the comma after the year). Do not write the date in military style (1JAN2016), nor as 1st of January, 2016, nor any other way.
9. Make sure to keep your prose clean and terse. For example, instead of saying "He stumbled due to the fact that another cadet stuck his leg in front of him when he was not looking" just say "He tripped on another cadet's leg" and let it go at that. Instead of saying "He gathered many accolades on the occasion of his graduation from Squadron Leadership School" say "He did well at Squadron Leadership School."
10. For best results, tell the story chronologically, in the simple past tense.
11. Remember that what is past for the event you are describing must be in the past perfect. For instance, "He did well, considering that he had broken his leg just a week before." The issue of "ago/before" is easy to solve. "Ago" measures from the present to the past, but "before" measures from any point of the narrative towards the past.
12. It might help you understand AP Style if you think of the event as being captured with a voice/video recorder. When you play it back, you will get just that: what people say, what people do, and what everything looks like. Therefore, don't say "it was a wonderful day" when "it was a clear, sunny day" is a much better description. To be taken seriously, the writer needs to step back and not offer any opinion. Just the facts does the trick.

#### **Distributing the Article**

1. Get your commander's approval. For checking the facts, "Commander" means the person in charge. It could be the incident commander on a mission, or the deputy commander for seniors at a formation, or whoever is running the event. However, the unit commander is responsible for everything that happens in the unit, so do not proceed unless the unit commander has given the OK.
2. Once the article has been approved, send it up the chain. Since most articles are time-sensitive, it is best to distribute to all higher HQ units simultaneously: the squadron sends it to group, wing and region at the same time.
3. Also submit the article to CAP News using the link on the eServices page. 

***Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP***  
***SWR Director of Public Affairs***



A photograph showing the interior of a home that has been severely damaged by fire. The walls are charred and peeling, revealing brickwork in some areas. Debris is scattered on the floor, and a doorway on the left leads to another room. The overall scene is one of destruction and disarray.

**You may have as little as 2 minutes to escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Learn how to use that time wisely at [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org)**

## **The Safety Page**

### ***October is Fire Safety Month***

Below are some tips to help you prepare a Fire Safety Plan for your home.

#### ***Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice***

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire strikes.

##### **Home fire escape planning should include the following:**

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows.
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out.
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out.
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting.
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms.

##### **Home fire escape practice should include the following:**

- Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill.

- Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave.
- Never going back for people, pets, or things.
- Going to your outdoor meeting place.
- Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone.

### **Smoke Alarms**

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

### **Cooking**

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

### **Heating**

- Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.
- Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.
- Have a 3-foot (1-meter) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

### **If a wildfire threatens your home:**

- Create a plan for evacuation that includes alternate routes out of the danger area.
- Have prepacked kits with essentials such as medicine, family records, credit cards, a change of clothing, and food and water.
- Create a family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication.
- Prepare a plan for the care of pets and other animals.
- Sign up for wildfire alerts.
- Take steps to protect family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities.
- Stay aware of local fire conditions. When told to evacuate, go promptly. If you feel unsafe, do not wait for an evacuation order—leave immediately!

**Source:** [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



## ***How the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program Works***

Starting with the October, 2017 issue of The Fly-By, Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe R. Smith decided to continue the January, 2013 directive of then Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe in that region will recognize contributions to The Fly-By as follows:

1. A SWR **CAP Achievement Award** for article publication on three different issues of The Fly-By. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.

2. A SWR **Commander's Commendation Award** for article publication on an additional six different issues. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.

Region will issue the certificate and send it to the winner's unit at the first available opportunity. The award certificate will be presented at the first available opportunity.

### ***How to Make Submissions Suitable for Publication***

Since The Fly-By is posted on the SWR website, it is an external communication. Therefore, as required by CAPR 190-1, Sec. 7.b.(7), articles must be written in Associated Press Style. If a submission that is not in AP Style is selected for publication, it will be edited to this standard. (NHQ/PA has been using AP Style for all external communications since 2005.)

AP Style is defined in the Associated Press Stylebook (available at [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)). For a brief summary, please see "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell," overleaf.

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

- Is written in AP Style;
- Answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and preferably also How;
- Has one or more quotes from participants, with attribution;
- Has two or more digital photos attached (not embedded in the text), with appropriate cutlines (photo captions). An article submitted without digital photos that is selected for publication will count as a half-credit. For full credit, it must have accompanying photos.

### ***General advice on writing a good article***

- **Get all the facts right**, stick to the facts, and do not use hearsay or express opinion.
- **Take good digital photos.**
  - Do not use digital zoom, or else your photos will lack good focus and definition;
  - Take "action shots" of people doing something interesting that is material to the article; for each photo, identify the people on it by grade, name, and unit.
  - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform and you identify all, as per above.
  - **Note:** Good photos are essential to add immediacy and flavor to the story.
- **Get good quotes.**
  - Ask participants for their opinion;
  - Get full grade, name, position title and unit of assignment for each quote.
  - Get the individual's consent to publish the quote as recorded (read it back).
  - **Note:** Getting quotes is how you get to express opinion, and get your readers to share the experience that you are writing about.
- **Write in good, idiomatic, unadorned English.**
  - Do not "pad" your sentences, such as saying "due to the fact that" when "because" will do;
  - Avoid trite expressions, such as "it goes without saying" – if it does, don't say it;
  - Avoid colloquial expressions;
  - Do not write in acronyms – always define the first instance, such as "Federal Aviation Administration" before you use FAA;
  - No nicknames – unless famous, such as "Ike" for Pres. Dwight E. Eisenhower. 🇺🇸

## ***Associated Press Style in a Nutshell***

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "kid," "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or higher ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. The Navy is the only service that has the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the good rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org) – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖